



Hartford Courant



VOLUME CLXXXV

COURANT.COM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2021

Borges family gives \$10M to Trinity

Business executive, former state treasurer Francisco L. Borges and siblings donate to college for scholarships

By Rebecca Lurye
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Trinity College has received a \$10 million donation to fund scholarships from alumnus and former state treasurer Francisco L. Borges and his siblings, who themselves relied on financial aid to become first-generation college graduates.

Borges, an investment executive who spent his early career in Hartford politics, was the first of four children in his family to attend Trinity College, his graduation in 1974 fulfilling the hopes of immigrant parents with no formal education. He and his siblings made their gift to Trinity in tribute to their father, who died during Borges' first semester at school, and mother, who

modeled a life of service before she died last year from COVID-19. "Our mom taught me and my siblings the value of hard work, the importance of community," said Borges, who immigrated with his parents from Cape Verde in 1958. "Both of them had a view that no matter what modicum of success one has, one should share those blessings with others."

Trinity will rename its admissions center the Manuel and María Luisa Lopes Borges Admissions Center in recognition of the gift from their children, Trinity alumni Francisco Borges — who also received an honorary degree in 2020 — Peter L. Borges '80, Francesca Borges Gordon '82, Maria



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Borges

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SOUTH CAROLINA 73, UCONN 57



TIM AYLEN/BAHAMAS VISUAL SERVICES

No. 1 defeats No. 2 in Bahamas

UConn guard Paige Bueckers, foreground, tries to keep the ball away from South Carolina forward Victoria Saxton, right, and guard Destanni Henderson, left, Monday at Paradise Island, Bahamas. No. 1-ranked South Carolina defeated No. 2 UConn 73-57 in the championship game of the Battle 4 Atlantis tournament. **SEE STORY IN SPORTS, PAGE 1**

Cops: SUV hit parade after tiff

Police say suspect drove from scene of earlier incident

By Scott Bauer,
Michael Balsamo
and Mike Householder
Associated Press

WAUKESHA, Wis. — The SUV driver who plowed into a Christmas parade in suburban Milwaukee, killing at least five people and injuring 48, was leaving the scene of a domestic dispute that had taken place just minutes earlier, Waukesha's police chief said Monday.

Police Chief Dan Thompson said that there was no evidence the bloodshed Sunday was a terrorist attack or that the suspect, Darrell Brooks Jr., knew anyone in the parade. Brooks acted alone, the chief said.

Brooks, 39, of Milwaukee, had left the site of the domestic disturbance before officers arrived and was not being chased by police at the time of the crash, according to the chief, who gave no further details on the dispute.

Police said they were drawing up five charges of intentional homicide against Brooks.

He has been charged with crimes 16 times since 1999 and had two outstanding cases against him at the time of the parade disaster — including one in which he was accused of deliberately running down a woman with his vehicle.

A joyous scene of marching bands and children dancing in Santa hats and waving pompoms gave way in an instant Sunday to screams and the sight of crumpled bodies as the SUV sped through barricades and struck dancers, musicians and others in the community of 72,000.

Members of a Dancing Grannies club were among those killed, as was a bank employee. The dead were identified as four women ages 52 to 79 and an 81-year-old man.

Mayor Shawn Reilly described the event as a "Norman Rockwell-type of Christmas parade" that "became a nightmare."

"It looked like dummies being

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CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Weekly positivity rate highest since early September

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

Just days away from Thanksgiving, Gov. Ned Lamont warned that the Northeast is becoming "redder and redder" with COVID-19 transmission and urged Connecticut residents to seek out vaccinations and booster shots.

"We're not an island and that's why we've got to continue to be very cautious," Lamont said during one of his first live COVID-19 briefings in months.

Connecticut's COVID-19 metrics have been on the rise in

Turn to Virus, Page 3



Connecticut's COVID-19 metrics have been on the rise in recent weeks. As of Monday, the state's weekly COVID-19 positivity rate is the highest it has been since early September; Above, Christine Dixon, an educator from Glastonbury, receives her first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination from nurse Rhonda Dannehy on March 4. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

Politics with turkey? Most want to stuff it.

Bipartisan group offers Thanksgiving tips

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

As Thanksgiving approaches and distant family members plan to gather, some Americans are dreading the potential the holiday presents for explosive political arguments.

In today's increasingly polarized climate, debates over masking, vaccination, CRT and President Joe Biden's performance pose an increased threat to a peaceful holiday and relationships with loved ones.

Braver Angels Connecticut, a local branch of the nationwide organization whose mission is to "bridge the partisan divide" and combat polarization, is trying to give families the tools they need to make it through the holiday season without hurting one another.

It starts with listening and understanding, said Al Smith,

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State's budget surplus has grown by more than \$400M

With more federal money than expected, Connecticut's budget surplus has grown by more than \$400 million over the past month to nearly \$900 million. **CONNECTICUT, PAGE 1**

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FROM PAGE ONE

Parade

from Page 1

thrown in the air,” said Nicole Schneiter, who was there with her children and grandchildren. “It took a second to register, like, ‘Is that what we really just saw?’ And then you looked in the road and there were just people laying in road.”

At least nine patients — most of them children — were listed in critical condition at two hospitals, and seven others were reported in serious condition. The chief said that while police were not pursuing Brooks before he entered the parade route, an officer did fire a shot to try to stop him but ceased shooting because of the danger to others. Brooks was not injured.

Brooks has two open criminal cases in Milwaukee County. In one case, filed Nov. 5, he is charged with resisting or obstructing an officer, reckless endangering, disorderly conduct, bail jumping and battery. Records show his \$1,000 cash bond was posted on Friday.

In that case, a woman told police that Brooks deliberately ran her over with his vehicle in a gas station parking lot after a fight. She was hospitalized for her injuries.

In the other case, filed in July 2020, Brooks is charged with reckless endangering and illegal possession of a firearm.

His attorney in those cases, Joseph Domask, said he was not representing him in the parade crash.

The Milwaukee County District Attorney’s Office said prosecutors’ \$1,000 bail recommendation for Brooks was “inappropriately low” given the charges he faced. The DA’s office said it is investigating the matter.

Brooks is an aspiring rapper. On a YouTube page, a video that has since been removed showed him rapping in front a red Ford SUV resembling the one at the parade. The rapper uses

the name MathBoi Fly on his Twitter and other social media accounts.

The horror of the crash was recorded by the city’s livestream and onlookers’ cellphones. One video shows the moment the SUV broke through the barricades and includes the apparent sound of gunfire.

“It was like a war scene walking through there,” said Ken Walter, who had been riding in the parade in a hot air balloon basket along with his wife and youngest son. “There were these piles of blankets with cops standing over them that you just knew were bodies.”

Walter said he saw a red SUV careen into view and watched it hit a member of his real estate-agency parade contingent, then barrel straight into members of the Waukesha South High School marching band.

The SUV continued down the parade route. Behind it, people were screaming, running, searching for family and friends and unsure whether they were still in danger, he recalled.

Schneiter said that after sheltering in a store, she emerged to see bodies in the street, along with strollers, chairs, candy and shoes.

Police identified those killed as Virginia Sorenson, 79; LeAnna Owen, 71; Tamara Durand, 52; Jane Kulich, 52; and Wilhelm Hospel, 81.

The Milwaukee Dancing Grannies posted on its Facebook page that its members were “doing what they loved, performing in front of crowds in a parade, putting smiles on faces of all ages, filling them with joy and happiness.”

Eighteen children ages 3 to 16 were brought to Children’s Wisconsin Hospital, including three sets of siblings, said Dr. Amy Drendel, medical director of the emergency department.

They suffered injuries ranging from scrapes on their faces to broken bones and serious head injuries, she said. Six were listed in critical condition.



Abandoned items Monday in Waukesha, Wisconsin, where a vehicle plowed into a parade route Sunday. JIM VONDRUSKA/GETTY



Police patrol after five people were killed Sunday when a driver plowed into the Waukesha, Wisconsin, Christmas parade. GETTY

Hartford Courant

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PLAY4 DAY 2 2 8 7 WB: 0

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PLAY3 NIGHT 2 0 0 WB: 5
PLAY4 NIGHT 2 4 3 7 WB: 6
CASH 5 3 9 14 15 28
LUCKY FOR LIFE 3 11 17 20 28 LB: 5

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FROM PAGE ONE

Stoneman Douglas families settle lawsuit

Federal government was sued due to failure to investigate a tip it received about a month before the high school massacre

By **Terry Spencer**
Associated Press

The families of most of those killed and wounded in the 2018 Florida high school massacre announced Monday they have settled their lawsuit against the federal government over the FBI's failure to stop the gunman even though it had received information he intended to attack. Attorneys for 16 of the 17

killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland said they have reached a confidential settlement with the government over the FBI's failure to investigate a tip it received about a month before the massacre. The 17th family chose not to sue. "It has been an honor to represent the Parkland families who, through their immeasurable grief, have devoted themselves

to making the world a safer place," their lead attorney, Kristina Infante, said in a statement. "Although no resolution could ever restore what the Parkland families lost, this settlement marks an important step toward justice." Andrew Pollack, whose 18-year-old daughter Meadow died in the shooting, commended the FBI for accepting responsibility for its inaction, comparing

it to the Broward County school district and sheriff's office, the school security staff and the psychologists who treated the shooter. He believes they all failed to stop the shooter and have ducked responsibility. "The FBI has made changes to make sure this never happens again," Pollack said. Paul David Stern, the lead attorney defending the government, did not imme-

diately return a call seeking comment. About five weeks before the Feb. 14, 2018, shooting, an FBI tip line received a call saying a former Stoneman Douglas student, Nikolas Cruz, had bought guns and planned to "slip into a school and start shooting the place up." "I know he's going to explode," the caller told the FBI. But that information was

never forwarded to the FBI's South Florida office and Cruz was never contacted. He had been expelled from the school a year earlier and had a long history of emotional and behavioral problems. Cruz, 23, pleaded guilty last month to 17 counts of first-degree murder. He will receive either a death sentence or life in prison after a penalty trial that is scheduled to start in January.

Borges

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Borges Correia '85, and Joaquina Borges King, who attended Wesleyan University. Their donation will support financial aid for traditionally under-served populations.

"This is the kind of stuff that brings me to tears, because when you see this kind of generosity and when you see someone who wants to impact generations of people beyond him, it's a beautiful thing," Trinity College President Joanne Berger-Sweeney said.

The donation is the largest Trinity has received during its Bicentennial Comprehensive Campaign, which aims to raise \$500 million between 2016 and 2023. The college recently surpassed \$230 million in gifts and bequests, nearly as much as Trinity collected during its last fundraising campaign. Berger-Sweeney says she understands firsthand the individual impact of financial aid. A scholarship allowed her to receive her bachelor's degree from Wellesley College, a private school her middle-class parents could not afford on their own. "There but for the grace of some donor," Berger-Sweeney said, she might not have started down a path that led to a doctorate in neurotoxicology, a hand in producing a drug that treats symptoms of dementia, and becoming the first African American



Trinity College President Joanne Berger-Sweeney says the Admissions, Financial Aid and Student Life building in the background will be named for the Borges family. Former state treasurer Francisco Borges and his family are donating \$10 million to his alma mater to fund scholarships such as those that allowed Borges and four of his siblings to become first-generation college graduates. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

and first woman to serve as Trinity's president in 2014. Every scholarship carries the potential to change someone's life for the better, Berger-Sweeney said. "Frank Borges just understands that to his very bones," she said. "In our early conversations, he reminded me that intelligence exists across all zip codes in the United States, but opportunity does not and what he felt he had the possibility of offering was opportunity to some of those smart kids who he knows can benefit from a Trinity education, like he did and his family members did." Their parents did not have a high school education but

believed in a strong work ethic and imparted other lessons that school alone cannot teach. In her 80s, Maria Luisa Lopes Borges was still taking the bus to a local church to cook and distribute food to people who were hungry or homeless, Francisco Borges said. In earlier years, she made monthly trips to a local drug store to buy money orders for family members back home in Cape Verde. "It was \$5 for this one, \$10 for this one because they've got a little larger family, \$20 for this one because they've had a tragedy," Borges said. "I can still today remember the shoe box where they kept the little stubs."

His mother often told the children, "stude ku empenhu," a Cape Verdean phrase that means "study with earnestness." Each of them listened. Borges graduated from University of Connecticut School of Law, worked as a lawyer for Travelers and won election to Hartford city council, serving several years as deputy mayor. He was twice elected state treasurer in 1986 and 1990 before he left office for a job on Wall Street. He became a partner at global investment firm Ares earlier this year when the New York company acquired Landmark Partners, the Simsbury-based

firm where Borges was chair and managing partner. He is also board chair of the Knight Foundation, which supports journalism and the arts. Peter L. Borges is an investment professional as well. Francesca Borges Gordon is development director at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Maria Borges Correia a real estate agent, and Joaquina Borges King is senior counsel for Ever-source Energy. The Borges' gift brings Trinity to nearly \$50 million in its current effort to raise \$100 million in new support for recruitment and financial aid. The majority of full-time, undergraduate students in the U.S. — and at Trinity — receive financial aid to offset tuition costs that have skyrocketed since the 1980s. For the first time in decades, however, inflation outpaced the growth of college tuition this year, according to a comparison of figures from College Board and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The average price paid by students at private universities is also at its lowest point since at least 2006, according to College Board. Trinity was one of many colleges to freeze or hold down tuition during the pandemic, as enrollment in higher education dipped across the U.S. Federal support covered a significant amount of Trinity College's expenses and financial losses related to the pandemic, including

COVID-19 testing costs, operation shutdowns, refunds for room and board, a tuition freeze in 2020, and lower international enrollment. Federal COVID-19 relief was significant but did not make the university whole, according to Berger-Sweeney. Responding to troubling financial projections, Trinity canceled scheduled salary increases and implemented furloughs and some layoffs, though salary cuts have since been restored. In April, Trinity's board of trustees voted to raise tuition by nearly 4%. Nationally, the cost of higher education remains too big a burden for many American families to bear, necessitating ever-larger fundraising campaigns. As Berger-Sweeney considers Trinity's future, she says the college must continue to expand access beyond the most costly path, a four-year residential experience. She thinks higher education institutions should make it easier for students to take a few courses without pursuing a degree, and to transfer in from two-year colleges. "(College) is out of the price range of a number of people and I think as educators, even at a place like Trinity, we have to think about different entry points, and I think we do have to think about offering elements of our education at a much cheaper cost," Berger-Sweeney said.

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Virus

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recent weeks, a concerning trend in the lead-up to the holiday season. As of Monday, the state's weekly COVID-19 positivity rate is the highest it has been since early September; the number of people hospitalized with the virus is at its highest point since late September. Still, hospitalizations in the state remain significantly lower than they were last winter — when the metric regularly surpassed 1,000 individuals — in large part due to Connecticut's high vaccination rate. Unvaccinated residents are five times more likely to be infected with COVID-19, 10 times more likely to be hospitalized with the virus and 15 times more likely to die from it, according to state public health commissioner Dr. Manisha Juthani. "That's just one more reminder that while the vaccinations are very good at preventing infections, they're extraordinarily good at keeping you out of the hospital and keeping you out of the morgue," Lamont said. Lamont and Juthani both urged Connecticut residents to get COVID-19 vaccines or booster shots before gathering indoors in large groups for Thanksgiving. During the holiday season, walk-up COVID-19 vaccine clinics will be held at Bradley Airport and train stations in New Haven and Stamford, in addition to more than 900 locations across the state. "If you're traveling, I hope to God you've been vaccinated, I hope your family's vaccinated, I hope you've gotten that booster," Lamont said.

Cases and positivity rate

Connecticut reported 2,060 new COVID-19 cases out of 58,379 tests administered over the weekend, for a daily positivity rate of 3.53%. The state's seven-day positivity rate now stands at 3.34%, the highest it has been since Sept. 2. As of Monday, all of Connecticut's eight counties recorded "high" levels of COVID-19 transmission, as defined by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. While noting that the state's COVID-19 positivity rate has risen over the past month, Lamont added, "You can take a little bit of comfort, but not a lot of comfort, in the fact it's by far the the lowest in our particular region."

Hospitalizations

As of Monday, Connecticut had 268 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, an increase of 21 individuals since Friday. The state's number of hospitalizations has now returned to its highest point since late September.

Hospital officials say the vast majority of those hospitalized with serious COVID-19 symptoms are unvaccinated.

Deaths

Connecticut reports additional COVID-19 deaths once a week, on Thursdays. The state reported 25 COVID-19 deaths last week, bringing its total during the pandemic to 8,834. The United States has now recorded 771,679 deaths related to COVID-19, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Vaccinations

About three months since the state announced that K-12 school employees at public and private schools had to be vaccinated or undergo weekly COVID-19 testing, more than 90% are fully vaccinated, Lamont announced Monday. Overall, 163 public school districts have employee vaccination rates of at least 90% and 73 of those districts have vaccination rates above 95%, according to a one-time survey conducted by the state Department of Education. In total, 93% of 102,447 public school employees are fully vaccinated, as are 93% of 12,152 private school employees. Across the state government system, nearly 84% of state employees are fully vaccinated, according to Lamont's chief operating officer Josh Geballe. Of all state employees, a total of 31 have been fired due to non-compliance with the state's vaccination and testing regulations, 35 have been placed on unpaid leave, 42 are in the process of being placed on unpaid leave due to refusal to comply and several hundred are waiting on a late test result. As of Monday, 83% of all Connecticut residents and 93.5% of those 12 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 71.7% of all residents and 82.3% of those 12 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC. About 56,000 children in Connecticut ages five to 11 have been vaccinated in the last few weeks, amounting to roughly 20% of the eligible population, according to state data. "We could be a lot higher, but we're doing pretty well," Lamont said of children's vaccinations. Additionally, 22.3% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster dose. Lamont noted that the state is bringing booster clinics to all of its nursing homes, for use by staff and residents.

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Politics

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co-president of Braver Angels Connecticut. "Maybe you don't change your mind, but the tone is civility," Smith said. "It's believing everyone has their own opinion, they're entitled to it, but find out why they think the way they do, and we're all better off for it." If you're feeling burnt out by political debate, you're not alone. Sixty-six percent of Americans said they hope to avoid discussion politics during Thanksgiving celebrations, according to a recent Quinnipiac University national poll. The sentiment holds for adults who identify as Democrats and Republicans alike: 66% and 68%, respectively. That Americans would much prefer to enjoy comfort foods and all-day NFL coverage than clash over political disagreements is no surprise. But arguments still happen: about a quarter of respondents anticipate a heated political debate as at least somewhat likely, according to the poll (respondents ages 18-34 are a bit more pessimistic at 32%). "It makes for a lot of awkward dinners," said John Zadrozny, of Glastonbury, a post-grad student at Avon Old Farms and youth representative on the Braver Angels Connecticut executive board, speaking from experience. If impassioned debates are inevitable for some, can anything be done to diffuse them, or at least take the sting out? Braver Angels Connecticut held a virtual workshop on Nov. 14 called "Families & Poli-

tics: How to Talk with Loved Ones on the Other Side," to discuss skills and strategies for managing impassioned family discourse. In the workshop, leaders talked about different "roles" many family members take on in a political debate. The "gladiator," for example, is someone who's looking to go on the offensive. The "sniper" sits back and throws in piercing jabs; the "defender" stays poised for counterattacks. The "peacekeeper," is the person at the table who might say "Uncle Fred, put down the carving knife, let's just all eat," as Braver Angels Connecticut Co-President Christopher Clouet put it. The goal of these discussions isn't to end in agreement, the Braver Angels representatives said. Rather, with an understanding of these archetypes and practice roleplaying different interactions, Braver Angels leaders hope family members can go into the holiday season prepared to maintain a level of civility in the event politics do come up. "When your point of view is labeled as wrong and bad, you can't discuss, you can't learn," Smith said. The virtual workshop was the most recent in a series of Zoom events held by Braver Angels Connecticut. Their first, in April, was a moderated debate over whether or not to tighten regulations on social media. In September, the organization hosted an info session about critical race theory. Politics have long been referred to as dinner table taboo, but they've become harder to avoid as

political polarization has heightened and debate has intensified, Braver Angels representatives said. Clouet, a professor of education at Mitchell College and former New London superintendent of schools, said he's concerned by the increase in the "coarseness of dialogue" across the country. One of his tasks at Mitchell "is preparing the next generation of teachers, and certainly part of the preparation of future teachers is alerting them that these issues are out there, and giving them tools to work with families and communities," Clouet said. Smith, a retired businessman and Vietnam veteran, got involved more directly in politics through No Labels, a nonprofit lobbying group formed in 2010 that promotes bipartisanship in Congress. Smith said he's grown frustrated by the polarization and lack of problem solving in government, pointing to the criticism aimed at the Republican senators who voted for President Joe Biden's infrastructure bill. At the same time as the voting public and elected officials seem to be becoming more polarized, Clouet offered, the world is undergoing radical changes in climate and technology. "It's not the first time in world history big changes have happened, but they're certainly happening right now," leading to insecurity about the future, he said. The Connecticut chapter of Braver Angels is at braverangelsct.org. Find more training and events at braverangels.org.

Biden to keep Powell as Fed chair

President also taps vice chair preferred by top progressives

By Christopher Rugaber
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden said Monday that he is nominating Jerome Powell for a second four-year term as Federal Reserve chair, endorsing his stewardship of the economy through a brutal pandemic recession in which the Fed's ultra-low rate policies helped bolster confidence and revitalize the job market.

Biden also said he would nominate as vice chair Lael Brainard, the lone Democrat on the Fed's Board of Governors and the preferred alternative to Powell among many progressives.

His decision strikes a note of continuity and bipartisanship at a time when surging inflation is burdening households and raising risks to the economy's recovery.

In backing Powell, a Republican who was elevated to his post by President Donald Trump, Biden brushed aside complaints from progressives that the Fed has weakened bank regulation and has been slow to take account of climate change in its supervision of banks.

"When our country was hemorrhaging jobs last year, and there was panic in our financial markets, Jay's steady and decisive leadership helped to stabilize markets and put our economy on track to a robust recovery," Biden said, using Powell's nickname.

In a second term that begins in February, Powell would face a difficult and



Jerome Powell speaks after President Biden announced that he was sticking with the Fed chair. YURI GRIPAS/ABACA PRESS

high-risk balancing act: Inflation has reached a three-decade high, causing hardships for millions of families, clouding the recovery and undercutting the Fed's mandate to keep prices stable. But with the economy still 4 million-plus jobs shy of its pre-pandemic level, the Fed has yet to meet its other mandate of maximizing employment.

Next year, the Fed is expected to begin raising its benchmark interest rate, with financial markets pricing in at least two increases. If it moves too slowly to raise rates, inflation may accelerate further and force the central bank to take more draconian steps later to

rein it in, potentially causing a recession. Yet if the Fed hikes rates too quickly, it could choke off hiring and the recovery.

The Fed's benchmark rate, which has been pegged near zero since the pandemic hammered the economy in March 2020, influences a wide range of consumer and business borrowing costs, including for mortgages and credit cards.

The Fed also oversees the nation's largest banks.

For months Powell was the favorite to be reappointed, but a vigorous campaign by environmental and public interest groups in support of Brainard clouded the picture in recent weeks.

Critics, including Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Massachusetts, argued Powell had loosened bank regulations that were put in place after the 2008-09 financial crisis.

And two other senators expressed opposition to Powell last week because they said he was insufficiently committed to using the Fed's regulatory tools to combat global warming.

Brainard, meanwhile, cast 20 dissenting votes against financial rule changes in the past four years.

In March 2020, she opposed a regulatory change that she said would reduce the amount of reserves large banks were required to hold

to guard against losses. She has also spoken more forcefully than Powell on ways the Fed can confront global warming.

Biden sought to assuage those concerns.

He said Powell had committed to making climate change "a top priority" and had agreed to make sure "that our financial regulations are staying ahead of emerging risks."

"Jay, along with the other members of the Fed Board that I will nominate, must ensure that we never again expose our economy and American families to those kinds of risks," he said at the White House, referring to the 2008 financial crisis.

Biden still has the opportunity to fill three more positions on the Fed's Board of Governors, including the vice chair for supervision, a top bank regulatory post. Those positions will be filled in early December, Biden said.

Biden acknowledged that some Democrats encouraged him to pick a new Fed chair, for a "fresh start."

But the president said he wanted to go in a different direction.

"We need stability and independence at the Federal Reserve," he said. "I believe Fed leadership with broad and bipartisan is important, especially now, in such a politically divided nation."

Biden praised Powell for his efforts to achieve maximum employment, but did not press him on inflation, which has emerged as the biggest economic threat to his administration. Biden said the U.S. economy is in the midst of a "historic recovery" that gives the Fed an opportunity to "attack inflation from a position of strength, not weakness."

Powell said "we know that high inflation takes a toll on families, especially those less able to meet the higher costs of essentials, like food, housing and transportation."

He pledged to use the Fed's tools — principally raising interest rates — "to prevent higher inflation from becoming entrenched."

Powell's renomination is expected to be approved by the Senate Banking Committee and then the full Senate.

Wall Street cheered the renomination, with stock prices rallying and measures of fear in the market easing immediately after the announcement.

Europe sounds the alarm against wave of outbreaks

Countries beefing up COVID-19 measures amid violent protests

By Steven Erlanger
The New York Times

BRUSSELS — Austria went into a major lockdown Monday to try to break the strong fourth wave of COVID-19 spreading across Europe, while the German health minister, Jens Spahn, warned that by the end of this winter "just about everyone in Germany will probably be either vaccinated, recovered or dead."

"Immunity will be reached," Spahn said at a Berlin news conference. "The question is whether it's via vaccination or infection, and we empathetically recommend the path via vaccination."

European governments are toughening measures against COVID-19 in the face of soaring infection rates — more than 2 million new cases each week, the most since the pandemic began — and popular resistance, with violent protests over the weekend in numerous countries.

Tens of thousands of people protested crackdowns and vaccine requirements in Austria, Belgium,

Croatia, Denmark, Italy, Switzerland and the Netherlands, with scattered violence and police use of tear gas and water cannons.

Some protests were organized by far-right parties, but many demonstrators said they were simply fed up with almost two years of intermittent state controls over their lives in the name of public health.

Ahmed Aboutaleb, the mayor of Rotterdam in the Netherlands, called some of the protests an "orgy of violence."

Mark Rutte, the Dutch prime minister, defended the right to demonstrate, but what I will never accept is that idiots use sheer violence against the people who work for you and me every day to keep this country safe under the guise of: 'We are dissatisfied.'

Europe is once again the epicenter of the pandemic, accounting for more than half the world's reported COVID-19 deaths this month, according to the World Health Organization.

The four countries with the world's highest rates of reported new cases in the past week are Austria and three that border it — Slovakia, Slovenia and the Czech Republic; 27 of the top 29 are in Europe.

With vaccination rates lagging and winter approaching, more governments are ringing alarm bells.

Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany told her Christian Democratic Party on Monday that the situation is "highly dramatic" and that the latest surge is worse than anything Germany had suffered so far.

In what may be her last month as chancellor, as a new government is being formed, she warned that hospitals would soon be overwhelmed unless the fourth wave of the virus is broken and called on Germany's 16 states to enforce even tighter restrictions to block the spread.

Germany, like many European countries, is at the same time pressing for citizens to get booster shots.

But it faces a dwindling supply of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine, which was partly developed in the country.

While the European Medicines Agency is poised to approve the vaccine for use on children ages 5 to 11 this week, first doses for children are not scheduled to be delivered to European Union countries until Dec. 20, Spahn said.

Neighboring Austria on



The streets of Salzburg were mostly deserted Monday after Austria began its fourth virus lockdown. The lockdown will last at least 10 days. LAETITIA VANCON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Monday began its fourth lockdown, one of the few in Western Europe since vaccines became available.

Most stores, restaurants, sporting venues and cultural institutions shut, leaving the streets cold and quiet in the weeks before Christmas.

The lockdown, which only allows people to leave home to go to work or to procure groceries or medicines, will last at least 10 days and as many as 20 and comes after months of struggling attempts to halt the contagion through wide-

spread testing and partial restrictions.

Austria has also announced that vaccination will be compulsory as of Feb. 1 — the first Western country to take that step and one of only a handful around the world.

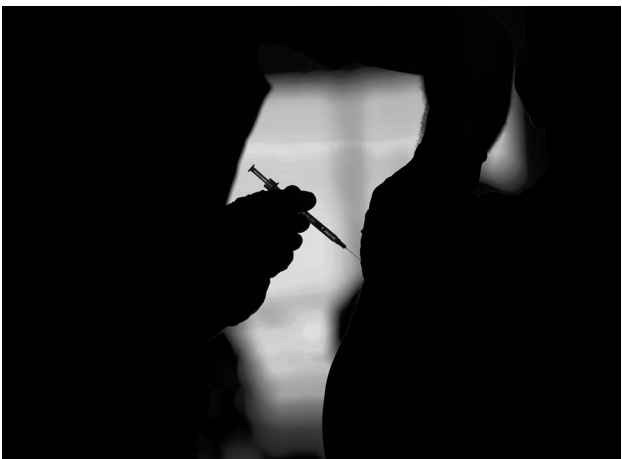
Alexander Schallenberg, Austria's chancellor, said he had initially opposed compulsory vaccination, but "we have too many political forces, flimsy vaccine skeptics and spreaders of fake news in this country."

On Saturday, some

40,000 Austrians marched in Vienna to protest the new COVID-19 measures.

The WHO chief for Europe, Hans Kluge, earlier this month blamed the region's woes on insufficient vaccination despite the availability of vaccines and said that the continent could see a half-million more deaths by February.

"We must change our tactics, from reacting to surges of COVID-19 to preventing them from happening in the first place," he said.



The number of unvaccinated Americans aged 12 and over has fallen from 100 million to under 60 million. JOHN LOCHER/AP

Over 90% of fed workers got a shot by deadline

By Zeke Miller
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than 90% of federal workers received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by Monday's deadline set by President Joe Biden.

Biden announced in September that more than 3.5 million federal workers were required to undergo vaccination, with no option to get regularly tested instead, unless they secured an approved medical or

religious exemption. A U.S. official who spoke on the condition of anonymity said the vast majority of federal workers are fully vaccinated.

In all, more than 95% of federal workers are in compliance with the Biden mandate, the official said, either by being vaccinated or having requested an exemption. Workers who are not in compliance are set to begin a "counseling" process that could result in their termination if they don't get a shot or secure an approved

exception to vaccination.

The deadline is a major test of Biden's push to compel people across the country to get vaccinated, as his administration has emphasized that vaccination is the nation's surest way out from the pandemic.

At the Federal Aviation Administration, 99% of employees are in compliance with Biden's order, at the Transportation Security Administration, 93% are in compliance, and 98% of Customs and Border

Protection workers are in compliance. Nearly 25% of the Internal Revenue Service's employees started getting vaccinated after Biden's announcement, and 98% of its employees are now in compliance with the requirement, the official said.

Since Biden announced the first federal mandates earlier this summer, the number of unvaccinated Americans aged 12 and over has dropped from 100 million to under 60 million.

WORLD & NEWS

From US jail to Russia’s parliament

Ex-convict makes soft landing in Duma legislative chamber

By Valerie Hopkins
The New York Times

MOSCOW — When Russia’s lower house of parliament, or Duma, assembled last month for the first time following elections in September, one of its newest members was a name more familiar in the United States than in her home country.

Maria V. Butina made headlines across America when she was convicted three years ago of operating as an unregistered foreign agent trying to infiltrate influential conservative political circles before and after the 2016 election.

She is now focused on playing a prominent role in Russia’s political system — through legal means this time, and with the support of President Vladimir Putin’s United Russia party.

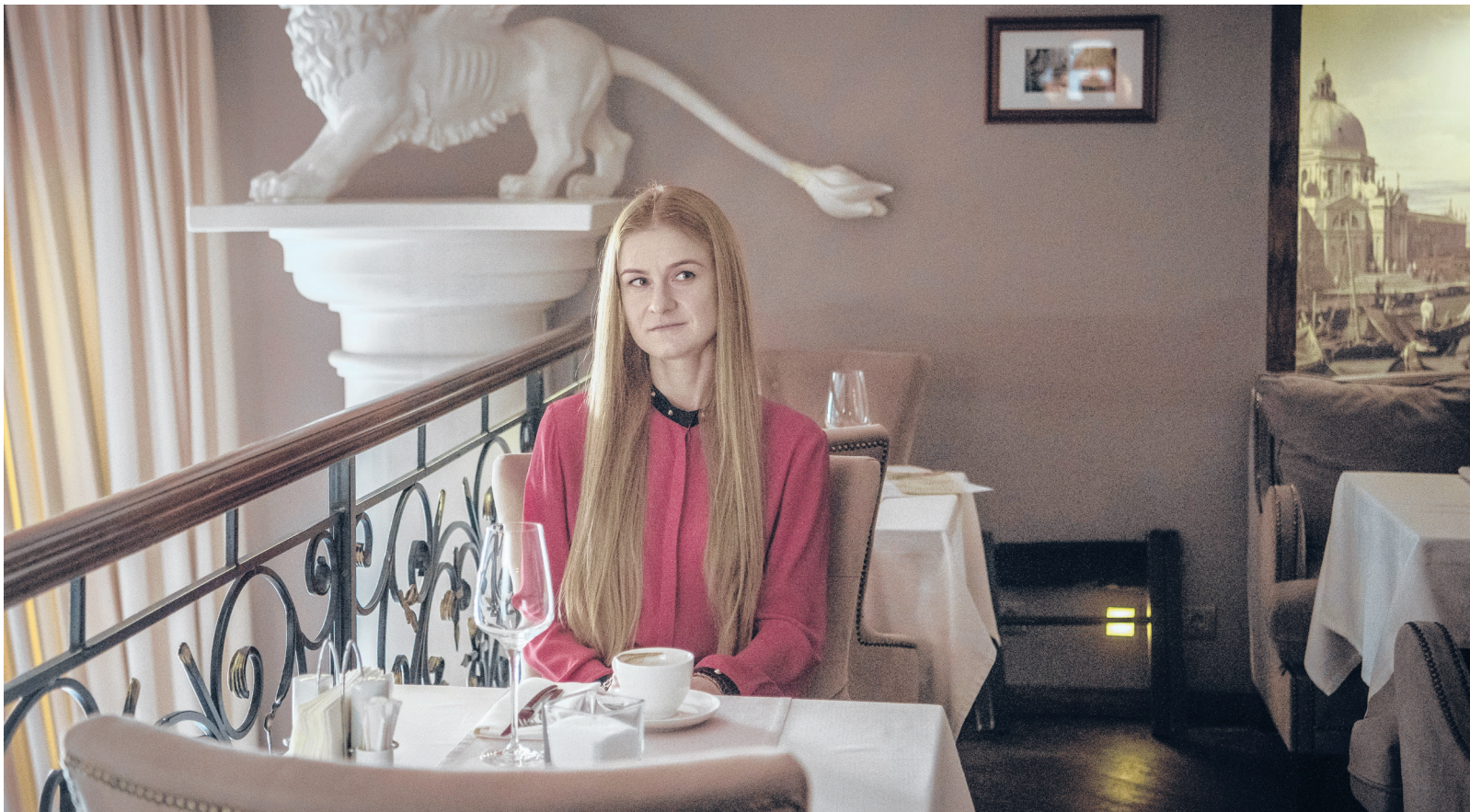
Butina, 33, who returned to Russia in October 2019 after spending 15 months in several U.S. penitentiaries, including four months in solitary confinement, now represents the impoverished Kirov region in the Duma.

Her critics have characterized her rapid political rise as a thank you from the Kremlin, a claim she rejects.

“It’s not a reward,” Butina said in an interview at a cafe in central Moscow near where she lives. “I wasn’t a spy. I wasn’t working for the government. I was just a civilian.”

But in December 2018, Butina pleaded guilty to conspiring, under the direction of a Russian official, to “establish unofficial lines of communication” with high-level Republicans on behalf of Russia’s government from 2015-17.

Prosecutors said she had tried to broker a meeting



Maria Butina was convicted three years ago of operating as an unregistered foreign agent. Above, Butina in Moscow. SERGEY PONOMAREV/THE NEW YORK TIMES

between then-candidate Donald Trump and Putin during the 2016 presidential campaign, and the judge at her sentencing hearing noted she had been sending political reports to Russia at the same time Russian intelligence operatives were trying to sway the election.

Since coming home, Butina has used her experiences with Washington insiders — and the time she spent in prison — to cast herself as an expert on both America and penal systems.

That was evident in April when she ambushed Russia’s most famous political prisoner, the opposition politician Alexei Navalny, on a surprise visit to the penal colony where he is held and which is notorious for harsh treatment.

Granted access as part of a civilian monitoring program, Butina favorably compared Navalny’s condi-

tions to the U.S. prisons where she had served time.

In a widely seen video broadcast by the state-owned Rossiya-24 television network, she said she was impressed by the facility’s food and medical services. Then she confronted Navalny, who at the time of her visit was one week into a 24-day hunger strike declared because he had been denied medical treatment for severe pain in his back and right leg.

“You can walk normally,” Butina tells Navalny, who did not consent to be filmed.

Navalny repeated to her that he was being denied access to his doctor, and walked off.

Maria Pevchikh, who heads the investigative unit of Navalny’s organization, the Anti-Corruption Foundation, said she believed Butina’s Duma seat was a gift not for her activities in

the United States, but for her harassment of Navalny.

“Not many people would agree to do that,” Pevchikh said. “And she did.”

In the United States, Butina’s case was treated like the plot of a Cold War thriller, and her love life — including a relationship with a Republican operative, Paul Erickson, whom she met in Russia in 2013 and who would later be convicted of financial crimes and pardoned by Trump — was dissected in lurid detail on cable news.

In Russia, however, the pro-government media portrayed her story as a miscarriage of justice.

Butina was seen as a scapegoat for Democrats’ failure to come to grips with Trump’s victory. Russia’s Foreign Ministry said it exemplified America’s rampant “Russophobia.”

Over a caviar-laden meal at a restaurant featuring

cuisine from her native Siberia, Butina insisted that she wanted to use her new status as a national lawmaker to improve relations between Washington and Moscow.

“I believed in the friendship between the two nations, and I still do believe in it,” Butina said.

Yet in her frequent TV appearances and on social media, she has been outspoken in her criticisms of America, especially when it comes to meddling in the affairs of other countries and race relations.

“She is quite a good trophy” for the ruling party, Pevchikh said. “Just talking nonstop about how bad things in America are.”

Butina’s connection to Russian government figures predates both her time in the Duma, and the United States.

She arrived in Moscow

from her native Siberian city of Barnaul in 2011 and soon after was hired as special assistant by a Russian senator, Alexander Torshin, an influential member of United Russia who later would become deputy governor of Russia’s Central Bank.

Still, in Russia, she is not a well-known personality, said Andrei Pertsev, a political journalist with the independent news outlet Meduza.

“The broad masses do not know her,” he said.

Butina was now just one among many “propagandists” in the 450-member Duma, Pertsev said, adding that in his view her elevation to the body — her seat was given to her by the governor of the Kirov region — was a way for the government to imbue her statements against America with more heft.

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WORLD & NATION

Death revives debate over de Klerk

Roles in apartheid, freeing Mandela complicate legacy

By Andrew Meldrum
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — Liberator of Nelson Mandela? Or a leader responsible for racist murders?

South Africa is engrossed in debate over the legacy of apartheid's last president, F.W. de Klerk, who died Nov. 11 at 85 and was buried Sunday.

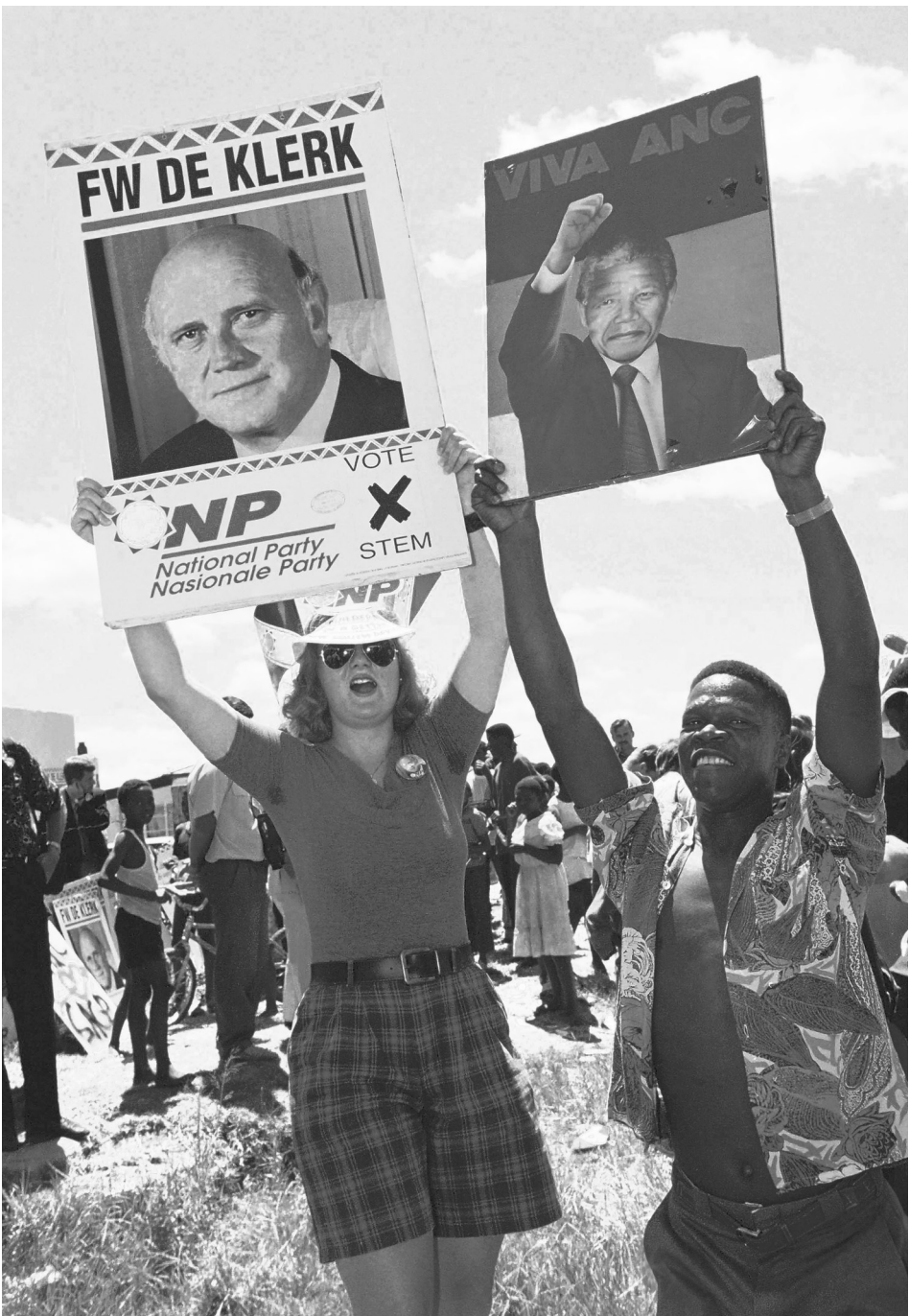
The controversy following de Klerk to the grave comes 27 years after the official end of the brutal regime that oppressed the country's Black majority for generations. Stoking the furor is a video that he released posthumously in which he said he was sorry.

"I, without qualification, apologize for the pain and the hurt and the indignity and the damage that apartheid has done to Black, brown and Indians in South Africa," said de Klerk, an apparition emaciated by mesothelioma cancer who nonetheless chose his words carefully.

Some South Africans were moved by de Klerk's final appearance, but many were critical, saying he avoided acknowledging that apartheid was a crime against humanity in which he was complicit.

"It's the last of a series of half-baked apologies," the Rev. Michael Lapsley said. "It's good that he apologizes for the pain and hurt, but there's no reckoning. There's no accountability. There's no accepting of responsibility for what happened under his watch."

An Anglican priest and anti-apartheid activist, Lapsley was hit by a parcel bomb that blew off his hands and blinded him in one eye in 1990, months after de Klerk freed Nelson Mandela and began negotiations that eventually dismantled



A National Party supporter, left, and an African National Congress supporter try to outshout each other during an election rally in Bethal, South Africa. JOHN PARKIN/AP/1994

apartheid.

"De Klerk's rule was one of the most violent periods of our history," Lapsley said.

As the chairman of the State Security Council, de Klerk was present at meetings where violence against anti-apartheid leaders was ordered, right up to the 1994 elections that brought to power Mandela and his

party, the African National Congress, according to Lapsley and others who have studied minutes of the council's meetings.

He hopes de Klerk's death "will lead to a lot of soul-searching by us as a nation about what kind of nation we want to be. We have to deal with the psychological, emotional

and spiritual issues which are part of the grim legacy of apartheid."

Lapsley, who founded the Institute for the Healing of Memories to help mend the wounds of apartheid, said another problem that de Klerk contributed to is economic inequality.

"Apartheid, like slavery before it, was always about

profit," Lapsley said. "Apartheid was always about political oppression and economic exploitation. We have slayed one monster, but we leave the other one very much intact."

South Africa resisted the historic wave of democracy that ended colonial-era minority rule across much of Africa in the 1960s.

Mozambique, Angola and Portugal's other African colonies became independent in 1975. White-minority-ruled Rhodesia fought a war against Black nationalists, becoming majority-ruled Zimbabwe in 1980.

Apartheid, imposed in 1948, denied the vote and basic rights to South Africa's Black majority and other people of color.

Resistance grew for decades, and by the 1980s the country had built up a large military and security apparatus to battle uprisings in the townships where Blacks were confined.

The South African military also fought in neighboring countries, including Angola and what became independent Namibia. South African forces raided Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique.

By the time de Klerk came to power in late 1989, South Africa was internationally isolated, convulsed by domestic violence and battling a contracting economy.

The country was on a precipice from which de Klerk pulled it back by releasing Mandela and beginning negotiations.

For working together to end apartheid, de Klerk and Mandela were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.

Some in South Africa feel that de Klerk should be remembered for averting catastrophe.

South Africa "lost a father who served the country with distinction," said Chief Mandla Mandela, grandson of Nelson Mandela.

He said many may not

agree with his views, but he felt that de Klerk should be honored as an elder statesman.

Others, however, celebrated de Klerk's death.

The Black People's National Crisis Committee slaughtered a sheep in Cape Town's Khayelitsha township to hail his passing.

"De Klerk, who denied that the legislated separate development, exploitation, torture and murder of Black people was a crime against humanity, dies with no honor, and with the dark cloud of having maimed and traumatized families across our nation," said the Economic Freedom Fighters, an opposition party which vowed to disrupt any state funeral.

"De Klerk died a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, an accolade that can never be taken away from him," wrote Mondli Makhanya, editor of the City Press newspaper. "But a man of peace he was not. He was a member of the State Security Council, a body that authorized the killings and brutalization of thousands of South Africans and citizens of neighboring countries. In short, he was a killer."

A more forgiving approach toward de Klerk is urged by South African academic Adam Habib.

"In a single act, he did more for humanity than most people do in a lifetime. And in his last message, he did again apologize for apartheid, this time without any qualifications," wrote Habib, director of SOAS University of London, who said that de Klerk's leadership saved South Africa from years of violence and turmoil.

"So let's remember for the moment the de Klerk who released Mandela and unbanned political parties. We don't have to forget the victims of apartheid, we don't have to ignore them, but it is only human for us to remember the kinder side of de Klerk."



Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is surrounded by journalists and lawyers before testimony Monday from ex-aide Nir Hefetz. MAYA ALLERUZZO/GETTY-AFP POOL PHOTO

Netanyahu's ex-aide testifies in trial of former Israeli PM

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — A ex-aide to Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday took the stand in the former Israeli prime minister's corruption trial, describing his boss as a "control freak" who was obsessed with the way he and his family were portrayed in the media.

Nir Hefetz, a former spokesman for Netanyahu, is a key prosecution witness expected to deliver critical testimony in the trial, which revolves around accusations that Netanyahu committed fraud, breach of trust and accepted bribes.

The former premier, now opposition leader, denies any wrongdoing.

Hefetz left a long career in journalism in 2009 to work as a spokesman for Netanyahu's government, and in 2014 became the Netanyahu family's spokesman and adviser. In 2018, after he was arrested in connection with one of Netanyahu's corruption cases, Hefetz signed a state's witness deal and provided investigators with recordings of conversations with Netanyahu and his family.

His testimony was

delayed by a week after Netanyahu's defense attorneys requested time to review new evidence. The information presented last week alleged that Netanyahu's wife, Sara, had accepted an expensive bracelet as a gift from two billionaire friends, Hollywood producer Arnon Milchan and Australian billionaire James Packer.

Netanyahu appeared in the Jerusalem District Court on Monday morning flanked by fellow Likud party politicians. Hours later, he was given permission to leave the court before the testimony ended.

Netanyahu is charged in three separate cases. The first alleges that Netanyahu received gifts worth hundreds of thousands of dollars from wealthy friends, including Milchan and Packer.

In the second case, Netanyahu is accused of orchestrating positive coverage in a major Israeli paper in exchange for promoting legislation that would have harmed the news outlet's chief rival, a free pro-Netanyahu daily.

The third, nicknamed Case 4000, alleges that

Netanyahu promoted legislation worth hundreds of millions of dollars to the owner of Israeli telecom giant Bezeq in exchange for positive coverage on its Walla news site.

In his opening testimony, Hefetz said that Netanyahu was a "control freak" when it came to his public image.

"Netanyahu spends at least as much as his time on media as he spends on security matters, including on matters an outsider would consider nonsense," Hefetz said.

He also described being the main envoy between Netanyahu and Bezeq owner Shaul Elovitch, and said that Elovitch's wife, Iris, personally took control of the news site.

"Netanyahu had the greatest control over the Walla website, including what the headline would be, where it would be on the home page," he said. "I thought the Elovitchs were doing a good job."

The former prime minister was indicted in 2019, repeatedly rejecting calls to step down. He has accused law enforcement, the media and courts of launching a "witch hunt" against him.

Sides present their final cases to Ga. jurors in Arbery killing

By Russ Bynum
Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — Attorneys on Monday offered their final words to the jury in the killing of Ahmaud Arbery, with the prosecution saying that three white men chased him solely "because he was a Black man running down their street" and the defense repeatedly blaming Arbery for his own death.

In closing arguments, a defense attorney for the man who fired the fatal gunshots said the 25-year-old was killed as he violently resisted a legal effort to detain him to answer questions about burglaries in the neighborhood.

"It is absolutely, horrifically tragic that this has happened," attorney Jason Sheffield said. "This is where the law is intertwined with heartache and tragedy. You are allowed to defend yourself."

The arguments unfolded before a disproportionately white jury after 10 days of testimony that concluded last week, not long after the man who shot Arbery testified that he pulled the trigger in self-defense.

Arbery's killing became part of a national reckoning on racial injustice after a video of his death leaked online two months later. Though prosecutors did not argue that racism motivated the killing, federal authorities have charged all three men with hate crimes, alleging that they chased and killed Arbery because he was Black.

Father and son Greg and Travis McMichael grabbed guns and pursued Arbery in a pickup truck after spotting him running in their neighborhood Feb. 23, 2020. A neighbor, William "Roddie" Bryan, joined the chase and recorded the video of Travis McMichael opening fire as Arbery threw punches and grabbed for his shotgun.

No one was charged in



Prosecutor Linda Dunikoski offers her closing argument in the trial of Ahmaud Arbery's alleged killers Monday in Brunswick, Georgia. STEPHEN B. MORTON/GETTY POOL PHOTO

the killing until Bryan's video leaked and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation took over the case from local police. All three men face counts of murder and other charges.

Prosecutor Linda Dunikoski told the jury the defendants had no evidence Arbery had committed crimes in their neighborhood, but instead acted on assumptions based on neighborhood gossip and speculative social media posts.

"They made the decision to attack Ahmaud Arbery in their driveways because he was a Black man running down their street," Dunikoski said. "They shot and killed him. Not because he was a threat to them. But because he wouldn't stop and talk to them."

Defense attorneys say the men suspected Arbery had burglarized a house under construction and intended to hold him until police arrived. None of the videos showed him stealing or damaging anything.

Dunikoski said the McMichaels and Bryan chased Arbery for five minutes, using their trucks to cut him off, run him off the road and otherwise prevent him from fleeing. And she repeated Greg

Michael's words to local police after the shooting that Arbery was "trapped like a rat."

Defense attorneys repeatedly put the blame on Arbery for his own death.

"He chose to fight," said Laura Hogue, an attorney for Greg McMichael. She said Arbery decided "without any sense of reason to run at a man wielding a shotgun, leaving him with no other alternative but to be placed in a position to kill him."

Bryan's attorney, Kevin Gough, suggested Arbery should have cried for help if he was being chased unjustly.

Dunikoski noted that Arbery never threatened the McMichaels during the chase, and he carried no weapons. She said it was Travis McMichael who attacked Arbery — first with his truck, then by pointing a shotgun at him.

"They can't claim self-defense under the law because they were the initial, unjustified aggressors," Dunikoski said, "and they started this."

Arbery had enrolled at a technical college and was preparing to study to become an electrician like his uncles when he was killed.

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Probe: ‘Overwhelming evidence’ of unethical behavior by Cuomo

From news services

ALBANY, N.Y. — A legislative investigation released Monday found “overwhelming evidence” that former Gov. Andrew Cuomo sexually harassed women and that he ordered state workers to help produce his book on pandemic leadership during work hours.

The report also found that Cuomo’s staff “substantially revised” a state health department report on COVID-19 deaths in nursing homes to exclude statistics that might have dimmed his reputation as a pandemic leader.

The findings, authored by a law firm hired by the Assembly’s Judiciary Committee, were widely expected, and the sections on sexual harassment largely echo allegations previously made in a report last summer by the state’s attorney general.

But it offered some new details, particularly around the \$5.2 million private deal Cuomo struck to write a book, “American Crisis: Leadership Lessons on the Pandemic.”

Cuomo had promised state ethics officials that no state resources would be used on the book, but the Assembly’s investigators at the law firm Davis Polk & Wardwell said they found evidence the governor had his staff spend copious amounts of time on the project.

“One senior state official explained that book-related assignments were given by superiors and expected to be completed, and the work was not voluntary,” the report said.

Junior and senior staff members told investigators they were asked to perform book tasks during their work day, including transcribing

dictations, printing and delivering documents, and attending meetings with agents and publishers.

Cuomo’s spokesperson, Richard Azzopardi, said Monday that senior staff who helped with the book did so on their personal time. He denied that junior staff was involved, as the report claims.

Jan. 6 panel: A committee investigating the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol insurrection issued subpoenas Monday to five more individuals, including former President Donald Trump’s ally Roger Stone and conspiracy theorist Alex Jones.

The subpoenas include demands for documents and testimony from Stone and Jones as well as three people accused of organizing and promoting the two rallies.

The committee has already interviewed more than 150 people across government, social media and law enforcement, including some former Trump aides who have been cooperative.

Ethiopia crisis: Ethiopia’s Nobel Peace Prize-winning prime minister says he will lead his country’s army “from the battlefield” beginning Tuesday, a dramatic new step in a devastating yearlong war.

“This is a time when leading a country with martyrdom is needed,” Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said in a statement posted on social media Monday night. His government declared a state of emergency earlier this month.

An estimated tens of thousands of people have been killed in the war between Ethiopian and allied forces and fighters from the country’s northern Tigray region,



First lady Jill Biden puts her hands together Monday upon opening the holiday season at the White House. A nearly 20-foot fir tree was transported to the White House by a pair of Clydesdale horses. Once the tree is decorated in the coming days, it will be displayed in the Blue Room, continuing a tradition that dates to the Eisenhower administration. **JIM WATSON/GETTY-AFP**

who long dominated the national government before Abiy took office. The United States and others have warned that Africa’s second-most populous country could fracture and destabilize the Horn of Africa.

The statement by the prime minister, a former soldier, did not say where he will go Tuesday.

Health care workers: Vice President Kamala Harris announced Monday that the Biden administration is investing \$1.5 billion from the coronavirus aid package to address the health care worker shortage in underserved communities.

The funding will go to the National Health Service Corps, Nurse Corps and Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery programs, all federal programs that offer scholarship and loan repayments for health care students and workers if they pledge to work in underserved and high-risk communities.

The money includes funds from the American Rescue Plan and other sources and will support more than 22,700 providers, marking the largest number of providers enrolled in these programs in history, according to the White House.

Sudan leader: Sudan’s reinstated prime minister said in an interview that aired Monday that he will have the authority to form his own independent government, according to the agreement he signed a day earlier with the country’s top generals who overthrew him in a coup last month.

Abdalla Hamdok said he foresaw the next government as focusing on rewriting the country’s constitution and holding elections on time.

On Sunday, Sudan’s deposed prime minister signed a deal that will see him reinstated, almost a month after a military coup put him under house arrest.

Thousands of Sudanese

later took to the streets Sunday to denounce what many called a betrayal of the democratic cause by their former leader.

Cohen sentence: Michael Cohen, who was former President Donald Trump’s longtime personal lawyer until his 2018 arrest, said Monday that his three-year prison sentence — mostly spent in home confinement — was over as he took another swipe at his former boss and vowed to continue cooperating with law enforcement probes.

AsmilingCohen emerged from Manhattan federal court after signing documents and speaking with authorities about his upcoming three-year term of supervised release.

Cohen was sentenced to prison in December 2018 after pleading guilty to campaign finance charges and lying to Congress, among other crimes.

In all, he spent about 13 ½ months behind prison walls

and a year and a half in home confinement.

Colo. school shooting: Police in the Denver suburb of Aurora have arrested three teenagers in connection with the shooting of three students in a high school parking lot Friday, a Colorado newspaper reported Monday.

Police arrested one 16-year-old boy late Friday and two more 16-year-old boys Sunday, Sentinel Colorado reported. All three face charges of first-degree attempted murder.

Friday’s shooting at Hinkley High School injured two boys, ages 16 and 17, and a 17-year-old girl, police said. None of the injuries was life-threatening.

The shooting came four days after six students from another school in the same Denver suburb, Aurora Central High School, were wounded by bullets fired from at least one car driving by a park near the school. Police have not arrested anyone yet in last week’s shootings.

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BUSINESS

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Target shutting doors on Thanksgiving — for good

Shoppers seemed to embrace extended sales last year, online shift amid pandemic

By Anne D’Innocenzio
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Target will no longer open its stores on Thanksgiving Day, making permanent a shift to the unofficial start of the holiday season that was suspended during the pandemic.

To limit crowds in stores, retailers last year were forced to turn what had become a weekend shopping blitz into an extended event, with big holiday discounts beginning as early as October. That forced shift appears to have been fortuitous.

U.S. holiday sales last November and December rose 8.2% in 2020 from the previous year, according to The National Retail Federation, the nation’s largest retail trade group. The trade group predicts 2021 could shatter that record, growing 8.5% to 10.5%.

Americans, able to get the same offers over a broader timespan and relieved from some of the stresses that go hand in hand with the holidays, appeared to embrace the change, which has also resonated with

workers, Target said.

Target is the first major retailer to make such a permanent move during the pandemic, and its decision could push other retailers to follow in its path, says Ken Perkins, president of Retail Metrics a retail research firm.

Macy’s, which will not open its stores again for Thanksgiving this year, only said that its curbside pickup service will be available at select locations. Kohl’s and Walmart will also be closed Thursday, but Walmart said it hasn’t made a decision yet on the future of Thanksgiving Day store shopping; Kohl’s declined to comment.

Target said that distribution and call centers will have some staff on Thanksgiving, and they will collect holiday pay.

The holiday shopping season started to creep into Thanksgiving Day 20 years ago when retailers began kicking off sales into the wee hours of Black Friday. Ten years later, Target and other major stores opened their doors on the holiday itself, creating a new shopping tradition.

Many did so to compete with Amazon

and other online threats. At its peak five years ago, about 25 chain stores ushered in crowds at its physical stores on Thanksgiving, according to Julie Ramhold, consumer analyst with DealNews.com.

But the shift seemed to cannibalize Black Friday sales. The shopping event was diluted further when stores began marketing Black Friday deals for the entire holiday week and then later for the entire month of November.

Big retailers suffered blowback from critics who said thousands of people were forced to work rather than being with family during the holiday. Some, like Costco and Nordstrom, never opened their doors during the holiday, saying they wanted to respect the holiday.

Thanksgiving had historically not been a big sales day; it never makes it into the top 10 because stores usually opened their doors around 5 p.m. But it’s been a big online shopping day. For the past two years, the holiday trailed only Cyber Monday and Black Friday in online sales, according to the Adobe Digital Economy Index.

Portugal joins others, stops using coal plants

Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal — Environmental activists are welcoming the end of electricity generation from coal in Portugal, though they said Monday that the possible conversion of the country’s last coal-fired power plant into one that burns wood pellets would be a step in the wrong direction.

The Pego plant 90 miles northeast of the Portuguese capital, Lisbon, stopped generating over the weekend, as Portugal became the fourth European Union country to stop burning coal to produce electricity. Belgium quit coal in 2016, and Austria and Sweden followed suit last year.

Portugal has no coal, oil or gas, which are all imported, and has been investing heavily in green energy in recent decades.

“Coal’s dire economics and public desire for climate action are driving faster and faster phase outs across Europe,” said Kathrin Gutmann, campaign director for Europe Beyond Coal, which aims to ensure coal is phased out in Europe by 2030.

Coal power is the single biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions.

“The challenge now is to ensure utilities do not make the mistake of replacing coal with fossil gas, or unsustainable biomass,” Gutmann said in a statement.

But proposals for the continued use of Pego, which is out to tender, include biomass.

Portuguese Environment Minister Joao Pedro Matos Fernandes said other proposals include solar energy and electric vehicle production. Proposals must be presented by Jan. 17.

“Freeing ourselves from our biggest source of greenhouse gases is a momentous day for Portugal. But it is soured by the prospect of the plant being converted to burn forests,” said Francisco Ferreira of the Portuguese environmental association ZERO.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

8 face FAA fines linked to alcohol

WASHINGTON — Federal officials said Monday that they are seeking \$161,823 in fines from eight airline passengers over incidents involving alcohol.

The Federal Aviation Administration said the biggest single proposed fine, topping \$40,000, involves a passenger who brought alcohol on the plane and drank it, smoked marijuana in the lavatory, and sexually assaulted a flight attendant on a Southwest Airlines jet in April.

The FAA did not identify any of the eight passengers. In some cases, airline crews diverted flights to land more quickly because of the passengers’ erratic behavior.

The proposed fines represent the latest salvo in the FAA’s attempt to crack down on unruly passengers on planes.

Amazon to curb German waste

BERLIN — Amazon says it plans to cut the use of plastic packaging in Germany following complaints that the online retailer is contributing to growing mountains of waste.

The company said Monday that its German logistics center will replace all single-use plastic packages with paper-based bags or cardboard boxes by the end of the year.

Exceptions are possible when third-party sellers provide products in packaging that can be relabeled for delivery, and when couriers are asked to leave products in outdoor locations during rainfall, the company said.

Environmental groups in Germany have long urged Amazon to lead the way in reducing unnecessary waste.



“The inflation is real. Everybody is saying that. Everybody is feeling it,” says Butterball President and CEO Jay Jandrain. GERRY BROOME/AP

The price of Thanksgiving

Holiday feast with all the trimmings will top \$53 this year, farm group estimates

By Dee-Ann Durbin
Associated Press

Turkeys may not be able to fly very far. But their prices can soar — along with the costs of other holiday staples like cranberry sauce and pie filling.

The Thanksgiving table hasn’t been spared the price inflation that is rampant elsewhere in the economy because of strong consumer demand and labor shortages.

The American Farm Bureau estimates a Thanksgiving feast for 10, complete with sweet potatoes, rolls, a vegetable tray and a pie with whipped cream, will cost \$53.31 this year, up 14% from a year ago. It’s an unusual spike. Before this year, the annual cost estimate had been falling since 2015.

“The inflation is real. Everybody is saying that. Everybody is feeling it,” said Butterball President and CEO Jay Jandrain. “Whether it’s labor, transportation, packaging materials, energy to fuel the plants — everything costs more.”

North Carolina-based Butterball, which

supplies around one-third of Thanksgiving turkeys, struggled to attract workers earlier this year, leading to processing delays. While turkeys waited, they grew bigger, adding to already skyrocketing costs for corn and soybean feed.

But Jandrain said labor shortages have lessened and the company was able to secure enough trucks to get its turkeys to grocery stores. So there will be about the same number of whole turkeys as last year, but fewer smaller birds.

“The good news about that is everybody loves the after-Thanksgiving leftovers, and they are going to have more of them this year,” Jandrain said.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the average wholesale price of an 8- to 16-pound frozen turkey in mid-November was \$1.35 per pound, up 21% from a year ago. For other staples, weather conditions compounded labor shortages. Pumpkin crops were smaller due to heavy rains and a fungus in Illinois — a top supplier — and drought in California. In early November, fresh pumpkins were averaging \$2.72 per pound, up 5% from a year ago, according to Nielsen IQ. Prices for green beans were up 4% while canned cranberry sauce was up 2.5%.

Ryanne Bowyer of Dallas usually buys

turkey a day or two after Thanksgiving to save money. But this year, she signed up for Ibotta, a receipt-scanner app, which gave her a turkey, potatoes, corn, soup, gravy and cornbread from Walmart — all free — just for signing up.

“If that hadn’t come along, the plan was just to go to the woods with my wife and grill wieners,” Bowyer joked.

Still, many retailers facing cost pressures of their own are pulling back on their usual Thanksgiving promotions. In the week before Thanksgiving, the number of U.S. stores offering specials on turkeys was at the lowest level since 2017, said Mark Jordan, the executive director of Leap Market Analytics, which follows the livestock and poultry markets.

Higher turkey prices could persist into 2022, Jandrain said. Feed costs remain elevated, along with labor and transportation costs.

That could help the turkey business, however, which for years has faced faltering demand for parts like turkey breasts and deli meat. The industry slaughtered 159 million turkeys in the first nine months of 2021, giving the U.S. its lowest per capita supply of turkey since 1987, Jordan said. Higher prices could encourage farmers to raise and slaughter more turkeys next year.

Dems upbeat methane fee stays in Senate bill

By Matthew Daly
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Democratic plan to impose a fee on methane emissions from oil and gas wells has cleared a key hurdle, but it faces strong opposition from the oil and gas industry and criticism by centrist Sen. Joe Manchin.

The proposed fee on methane — a pollutant that contributes to global warming — was included in a huge social and environmental policy bill passed by House Democrats last week.

As the bill moves to the Senate, attention again will focus on Manchin, a West Virginia moderate who has already forced fellow Democrats to abandon one of their

biggest climate proposals: a clean-electricity program that would boost wind and solar power while phasing out coal- and gas-fired power plants.

Manchin, whose state is a leading producer of coal and natural gas, has said he worries a methane tax could be used to drive energy companies out of business. He said before the House vote that he wants to make sure the fee is structured to incentivize innovation and not just “punish” energy companies “for the sake of punishing” them.

A spokeswoman for Manchin declined to comment after the House vote, but Democrats in the House and Senate said they are confident the fee will remain in the Senate bill, despite a 50-50 split in the chamber

that gives every Democrat veto power.

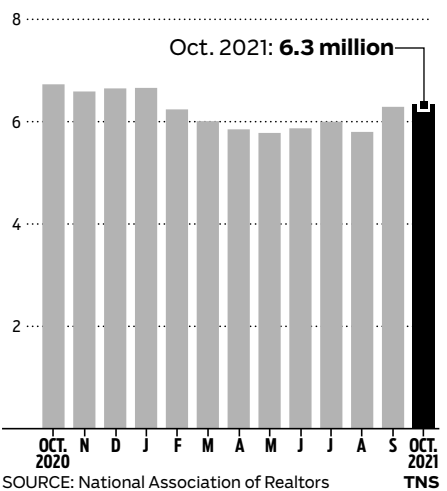
Language approved by the House represents a compromise that would slap a rising fee on excess emissions at oil and gas facilities, reaching \$1,500 per ton in 2025, along with \$775 million in subsidies for companies that take steps to reduce emissions.

Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J., who chairs the House Energy and Commerce Committee, said he and other Democrats have been working with senators on the methane fee, including Manchin, who chairs the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

While the Senate may make minor revisions over the next few weeks, “nothing major, in my opinion,” will be changed or taken out, Pallone said.

Existing home sales

Scale in millions



BUSINESS



Dr. Frida Polli, co-founder and CEO of Pymetrics, demonstrates AI technology used to assess job skills. Her company lobbied for legislation passed by New York City. **MARY ALTAFFER/AP**

NYC measure aims to rein in AI hiring tools employers use

By Matt O'Brien
Associated Press

Job candidates rarely know when hidden artificial intelligence tools are rejecting their resumes or analyzing their video interviews. But New York City residents could soon get more say over the computers making behind-the-scenes decisions about their careers.

A bill passed by the City Council in early November would ban employers from using automated hiring tools unless a yearly bias audit can show they won't discriminate based on an applicant's race or gender. It would also force makers of those AI tools to disclose more about their opaque workings and give candidates the option of choosing an alternative process — such as a human — to review their application.

Proponents liken it to another pioneering New York City rule that became a national standard-bearer earlier this century — one that required chain restaurants to slap a calorie count on their menu items.

Instead of measuring hamburger health, though,

this measure aims to open a window into the complex algorithms that rank the skills and personalities of job applicants based on how they speak or what they write. More employers, from fast-food chains to Wall Street banks, are relying on such tools to speed up recruitment, hiring and workplace evaluations.

"I believe this technology is incredibly positive but it can produce a lot of harms if there isn't more transparency," said Frida Polli, co-founder and CEO of New York startup Pymetrics, which uses AI to assess job skills through game-like online assessments. Her company lobbied for the legislation, which favors firms like Pymetrics that already publish fairness audits.

But some AI experts and digital rights activists are concerned that it doesn't go far enough to curb bias, and say it could set a weak standard for federal regulators and lawmakers to ponder as they examine ways to rein in harmful AI applications that exacerbate inequities in society.

"The approach of auditing for bias is a good one.

The problem is New York City took a very weak and vague standard for what that looks like," said Alexandra Givens, president of the Center for Democracy & Technology. She said the audits could end up giving AI vendors a "fig leaf" for building risky products with the city's imprimatur.

Givens said it's a problem that the proposal only aims to protect against racial or gender bias, leaving out the trickier-to-detect bias against disabilities or age. She said the bill was recently watered down so that it effectively just asks employers to meet existing requirements under U.S. civil rights laws prohibiting hiring practices that have a disparate impact based on race, ethnicity or gender. The legislation would impose fines on employers or employment agencies of up to \$1,500 per violation — though it will be left up to the vendors to conduct the audits and show employers that their tools meet the city's requirements.

The Council voted 38-4 to pass the bill Nov. 10, giving a month for Mayor Bill De Blasio to sign or veto it or let it go into law unsigned.

Investors hopped on Zoom, Peloton last year. What now?

By Matt Phillips
The New York Times

Peloton's pricey exercise bikes were the hot product for fitness buffs in the early days of the pandemic. With jumbo screens and upbeat instructors, being on them mimicked the experience of an in-person spin class in their living rooms.

What happens now that they can get the real thing again?

Shares of companies like Peloton and Zoom Video, the online conference software that replaced face-to-face communications for countless schools and businesses, were darlings of the stock market for the better part of last year.

But as the economic reopening gains speed — aided by rising vaccination numbers and promising new treatments for those who get sick — some of the stocks at the center of the so-called stay-at-home trade collapsed.

"The markets clearly sense the pandemic is over," said Ben Emons, managing director of global macro strategy for Medley Global Advisors. "We're in a full reopening and we're moving toward a normalized situation."

That has been bad news for the share prices of some of last year's hottest stocks. Peloton dived 35% in a single trading session this month, after it deeply cut its sales forecast for the coming year. Its shares are down nearly 66% for the year. CEO John Foley said on a conference call with analysts that the company knew it would be a challenge to duplicate the results it had during the peak of the pandemic. But he added, "Our long-term thesis of fitness moving into the home is unchanged."

Other once-hot stocks have also skidded.

Shares of the online education company Chegg plunged almost 50% in a



Peloton was a darling of the stock market last year, but shares have dropped this year. **MARK LENNIHAN/AP 2019**

single trading session Nov. 2, and are off 68% in 2021. Zoom Video plummeted 17% on a single day in late August, after it noted that strong demand for its products showed signs of easing as the pandemic abated. So far this year, it is down nearly 22%.

Instead, many investors are shifting their attention to corners of the market they considered no-go zones last year, with businesses including airlines, live events companies and commercial real estate firms posting large gains.

The turn away from stay-at-home stocks has not sapped the market's overall momentum. The S&P 500 is up nearly 25% this year. After the index's head-spinning recovery last year, and a nearly 29% gain in 2019, stocks are on track for the best three-year run since the late 1990s.

Investors owe the bulk of the market's gain this year to so-called cyclical stocks, such as oil companies and financial firms, whose profits and share prices tend to mirror the trajectory of the economy, rising and falling as growth quickens or slows.

It is a stark switch from the kinds of stocks that were at the epicenter of last year's remarkable rise — and a huge surge in trading.

It was a disparate group of stocks: Shares of Zoom

Video were up nearly 400% last year while Peloton rose about 470%.

Online retailer Etsy, which suddenly became a key source of homemade masks, jumped 300%. And internet furniture store Wayfair rose 150% as people nestled down and spruced up their homes.

At the end of last year, the roughly \$9 billion Carillon Eagle Mid Cap Growth Fund owned sizable stakes in one of those stocks, a slug of Peloton shares worth roughly \$136 million.

But in the first half of 2021, the fund sold out of that position and has built stakes in companies that are tied to infrastructure spending, home improvement and health care, and that Eric Mintz, portfolio manager at Eagle Asset Management, an investment firm in St. Petersburg, Florida, thinks offer strong potential for growth over the near term.

But not every company that surged over the past 20 months has come back to earth.

Etsy, for example, is up roughly 60% in 2021, as the company has been successful at converting those who went to the site for face coverings into repeat customers. And the online security company Zscaler — which soared more than 300% last year — has only continued to climb, rising almost 80% so far this year.

MARKET RUNDOWN
Tuesday, November 23, 2021

▲ DOW
35,619.25 +17.27

▲ 10-YR T-BOND
1.63% +0.09

▼ GOLD
\$1,806.00 -45.20

Dow Jones Industrials
Close: 35,619.25
Change: 17.27 (0.1%)

10 DAYS

Domestic Indexes

	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	35,619.25	+17.27	+16.38%
DOW Trans.	16,739.03	+221.57	+33.84%
DOW Util.	921.50	+7.11	+6.58%
NYSE Comp.	16,945.78	-28.19	+16.67%
Nasdaq Comp.	15,854.76	-202.68	+23.02%
S&P 500	4,682.94	-15.02	+24.68%
S&P 400	2,875.24	-8.15	+24.65%
Wilshire 5000	48,302.44	-415.01	+22.42%
Russell 2000	2,331.35	-11.81	+18.05%

Commodities

	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
FUELS			
Crude Oil (bbl)	76.75	75.94	+58.18%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	4.79	5.07	+88.62%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.26	2.21	+58.74%
METALS			
Gold (oz)	1,806.00	1,851.20	-4.60%
Silver (oz)	24.30	24.78	-7.73%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange

	ForEx in U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in ForEx
Britain	1.3385	.7471
Canada	.7875	1.2698
China	.1566	6.3854
Euro	1.1231	.8904
Japan	.008699	114.96
Mexico	.047648	20.9872

Money Rates

	CLOSE	PREV. WK.
Prime rate	3.25	3.25
3-mo. T-Bill	0.05	0.05
6-mo. T-Bill	0.07	0.06
5-yr T-Note	1.33	1.22
10-yr T-Note	1.63	1.54
30-yr T-Bond	1.97	1.91

Global Markets

	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD
Frankfurt	16,115.69	-44.28	-.27%	+17.47%
London	7,255.46	+31.89	+.44%	+12.30%
Hong Kong	24,951.34	-98.63	-.39%	-8.37%
Nikkei	29,774.11	+28.24	+.09%	+8.49%

Stocks of Local Interest							
STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG	STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	41.24	+37	+1845.3	Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	339.83	-3.28	+52.8
AT&T Inc (T)	24.70	+57	-14.1	Novartis AG (NVS)	81.32	-.34	-13.9
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	152.52	-2.89	+66.3	Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	319.56	-10.29	+144.8
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	19.63	+35	+24.5	Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	84.20	-2.06	+24.6
Amphenol Corp (APH)	84.26	-.88	...	Palantir Technol (PLTR)	20.65	-.76	-12.3
Apple Inc (AAPL)	161.02	+47	+21.4	PayPal Holdings (PYPL)	189.48	-4.13	-19.1
Astra Space Inc A (ASTR)	11.17	+1.64	+10.5	Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	18.72	+57	+44.8
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	51.68	+53	+13.7	Pfizer Inc (PFE)	51.20	+.40	+39.1
Bank of America (BAC)	46.28	+.88	+52.7	Pitney Bowes (PBI)	7.52	+.05	+22.1
Barnes Group (B)	45.96	+.70	-9.3	Plug Power Inc (PLUG)	42.81	-1.74	+26.2
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2297.13	-42.86	+3.1	Progenity Inc (PROG)	4.45	-.44	-16.2
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	57.04	-.79	-8.0	Prudential Fncl (PRU)	107.48	+2.10	+37.7
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	92.99	-.17	+36.1	Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	63.44	+.37	+8.8
Carnival Corp (CCL)	20.33	-.16	-6.1	Qualigen Therapeut (QLGN)	1.25	+.26	-58.5
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	56.41	-.74	+49.5	Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	86.80	+1.37	+21.4
Charter Communic (CHTR)	668.32	-14.02	+1.0	Rivian Automotive A (RIVN)	118.11	-10.49	+17.3
Cigna Corp (CI)	211.55	+1.04	+1.6	Rogers Corp (ROG)	120.32	+.26	+74.1
Cisco Syst (CSCO)	54.60	+1.35	+22.0	Roblox Corp (RBLX)	270.22	-14.50	+73.0
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	51.51	-.40	-1.7	SS&C Technologies (SSNC)	79.65	-.48	+9.5
ContextLogic Inc (WISH)	4.10	-.15	-77.5	Snapp Inc A (SNAP)	49.26	-2.06	-1.6
Disney (DIS)	154.16	+16	-14.9	Sofi Technologies (SOFI)	18.75	-1.62	-17.2
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	130.64	+1.21	+42.8	Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	187.58	-2.67	+5.1
Ethan Allen (ETD)	24.42	+.36	+20.8	Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	26.12	+.21	+35.3
Eversource Energy (ES)	84.68	+.82	-2.1	Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.69	-.04	+45.6
Ford Motor (F)	20.48	+1.09	+133.0	TAL Education Grp AD (TAL)	5.07	-.09	-92.9
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	9.41	-.40	-15.8	Terex Corp (TEX)	47.38	+1.10	+35.8
Gen Dynamics (GD)	199.36	+3.05	+34.0	Tesla Inc (TSLA)	1156.87	+19.81	+63.9
Gen Electric (GE)	101.04	+1.08	+17.2	Tonix Pharma (TNXP)	.47	-.02	-31.0
Greenland Tech Hldgs (GTEC)	11.69	+1.80	+61.5	Travelers Cos (TRV)	156.87	+.44	+11.8
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	70.63	+.95	+44.2	Twitter Inc (TWTR)	47.31	-1.09	-12.6
Honeywell Intl (HON)	218.14	-.35	+2.6	Uber Technologies (UBER)	42.60	-1.63	-16.5
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	16.97	-.01	+28.2	United Rentals (URI)	376.95	+1.69	+62.5
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	22.77	-.82	+34.3	UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	437.54	-2.46	+24.8
Intel Corp (INTC)	49.83	+.31	...	Virtus Invest (VRTS)	313.87	-2.38	+44.6
Kaman (KAMN)	39.34	+1.35	-31.1	Voya Financial (VOYA)	66.49	+1.22	+13.1
Keycorp (KEY)	23.63	+.26	+44.0	Webster Financial (WBS)	57.87	+.85	+37.3
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	70.45	+.90	+40.0	Wells Fargo & Co (WFC)	50.34	+1.52	+66.8
Longeveron Inc (LGVN)	28.20	+18.17	+292.8	White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1045.84	-9.06	+4.5
Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	51.12	-4.09	+90.5	World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	51.20	-1.46	+6.6
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	44.54	+.26	+41.4	XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	78.90	+.12	+13.8
Magellan Health Inc (MGLN)	94.46	-.12	+14.0	Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	19.88	+.68	-14.3
Meta Platforms Inc (FB)	341.01	-4.29	+24.8	Zynga Inc (ZNGA)	6.44	-.14	-34.8
Meten Holding Group (METX)	.38	-.05	-80.8				
MetLife Inc (MET)	62.51	+1.36	+33.1				
Micron Tech (MU)	83.86	+.83	+11.5				

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OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

CHICAGO TRIBUNE EDITORIAL

Thunberg sees failure at climate summit; she’s wrong

Only a few days into the United Nations’ two-week climate conference, activist Greta Thunberg pronounced it a failure. The Swedish teen famous for scolding polluters later went on to slam the “very vague” agreement struck as the COP26 summit wrapped up in Glasgow last week, saying it succeeded only in “watering down the blah, blah, blah.”

She wasn’t alone in her disappointment. Even Alok Sharma, the British politician presiding over the conference, fought back tears as he declared himself “deeply sorry” about last-minute wording in the final agreement to “phase down” rather than “phase out” the use of coal for heat and power.

Time for a reality check. It should come as no surprise that COP26 ended without a revolution. There was no way to put an immediate end to the planet’s current reliance on fossil fuels, as Thunberg evidently expected. Success, in this case, depends on your expectations, and ours were mostly exceeded.

First, the conference ended with an agreement. That was no foregone conclusion going in, especially when China’s Xi Jinping and Russia’s Vladimir Putin decided not to show, and President Joe Biden had fences to mend after four years of climate hostility from former President Donald Trump.

While the final agreement is carefully hedged, it calls for more urgent emission cuts and promises assistance for developing countries adapting to climate impacts. Sharma’s tears notwithstanding, this was the first international climate deal to explicitly call for reducing the use of coal, which is the worst fossil fuel for greenhouse-gas emissions.

The landmark 2015 Paris Agreement didn’t even mention the role of fossil fuels in climate change. Today, we have a deal



Climate change activist Greta Thunberg takes part in the Fridays For Future protest near the COP26 venue at the SEC on Nov. 1 in Glasgow. As world leaders met to discuss climate change at the COP26 Summit, many climate action groups took to the streets to protest for real progress to be made by governments to reduce carbon emissions, clean up the oceans, reduce fossil fuel use and other issues relating to global heating. **CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/GETTY**

corresponding to the facts that scientists have known for many years: When carbon dioxide, methane and similar gases blanket the planet, they trap heat like a greenhouse. The result is global warming, which in turn causes severe weather and dangerously high sea levels.

The largest source of emissions comes from burning coal, gas and oil for electricity, heat and transportation. Agriculture and forestry contribute emissions on a vast scale as well. That’s the problem the world needs to solve — and calling out coal was a significant step forward.

Here’s another: Finally, the world’s governments agreed on rules for a global carbon-emissions market that will enable countries to trade carbon credits with each other. The idea is for polluters to buy credits from countries that can offset emissions with green projects, such as planting trees or building wind farms. This provides a financial incentive to reduce emissions on one side of the trade and to go green on the other.

It took six years to work out the details after the Paris Agreement established an initial framework for this potentially game-chang-

ing marketplace. Chicagoans with roots in commodity trading can rightly wonder what took so long.

Part of the complication resulted from experiments in the past, when carbon credits were traded without internationally recognized rules. COP26 negotiators agreed on a formula for valuing and tracking the old credits and addressed a loophole that could have allowed some countries to double-count their credits.

Getting the rules straight is essential, in part to keep rich nations from snapping up discounted credits so they can

keep emitting as usual. Though operational details still need to be worked out, we have high hopes that a functioning market will encourage new investment and reduce emissions overall.

Finally, the COP26 agreement directs the world’s governments to arrive at COP27 in Egypt next year with updated plans for cutting emissions by 2030 and additional details on how to assist developing countries adapting to climate change. By putting participating nations on the hook to update their goals and report on their actions more regularly than in the past, the agreement shows a greater sense of urgency that even Thunberg should appreciate.

In the meantime, what can individuals do to make a difference? Quite a lot, actually.

For starters, there’s conservation. Turn down the heat, drive less, insulate, recycle and reduce waste. Consider electric vehicles, solar panels and switching to low-emission power suppliers. Plant trees and back organizations committed to preserving forests. Support companies that factor climate impact into their business decisions and publicly report their carbon footprint through CDP and other nonprofits.

Speak up about your concerns but do yourself and those around you a favor by staying out of the “green shame” game — as in “flight-shaming” those who travel by air, “meat-shaming” those who don’t eat vegan and “fashion-shaming” those wearing cheap, high-volume clothes.

Shame has a place in public discourse, but a young generation on the warpath over climate change already has gone overboard to the point of turning off potential allies. More will get done if we can accept that green comes in many different shades and, over time, we can all get greener together.

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We welcome all submissions and will publish the best. We especially look for younger writers and those whose voices aren’t heard often enough. Essays should be 600-700 words, written in the first person and emailed to oped@courant.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Another watchdog job for Stefanowski: Trump

Now that Bob Stefanowski has declared himself to care so deeply about transparency in government while nitpicking Gov. Ned Lamont’s outstanding performance in combating the coronavirus pandemic, perhaps he could turn his attention to the shameless standard-bearer of his own Republican Party [Opinion, Nov. 7, “Transparency has not been a priority for Lamont, Dems”].

We still are waiting for Donald Trump to disclose his long-promised tax returns so that we all can rest assured that those lucrative real estate deals with Russian oligarchs and those bizarre meetings between Trump’s campaign staff and Russian agents in 2016 did not come too close to what the Founding Fathers warned us against — namely, treasonous “foreign entanglements.”

While he’s at it, Stefanowski might ask Kevin McCarthy and the Trump sycophants in Congress to disclose just how much they enabled the insurrectionists who trashed the Capitol on Jan. 6 while headhunting for Mike Pence and scrambling to overturn our democracy.

Yes, that kind of transparency.
Alex Kuzma, Glastonbury

Union jobs, work will spur economy

It’s a known fact that good union jobs are not only good for the economy, but the humane way to conduct business [Nov. 12, Page 8, “Biden’s \$1.85T bill offers boost to union-made EVs”].

For 11 southern states to complain about the president’s plan to strengthen unions, it’s just unfortunate that those states find it necessary to have union-busting laws on their books.

I am sure the United Auto Workers political contributions pale in the face of big business lobbyists. Why can’t working men and women get a tax break for a new car instead of the rich getting huge tax cuts?

As far as foreign nations not happy about keeping good union jobs in the U.S., let’s simply say they are not concerned about our national interests, only their own.

The loss of jobs overseas and the demise of strong working-class unions is almost cliché. Let our president turn this around and help make the U.S. a great nation again.

Curtis Roessler, West Hartford

Security fence in Israel saves lives

In response to “Barrier Forces Palestinians to Adapt” [Page 8, Nov. 10], we need to put the security fence into context.

Israel did not want this structure. It was forced on it after Yasser Arafat rejected the peace plan that gave him much of what he wanted.

The resulting conflict from 2000-2005 resulted in thousands of deaths from many attacks. Israel’s border at its narrowest is only 9 miles wide, which permits an easy reach for enemies. After the security fence, land attacks have decreased. If Israel was not attacked, there would be no fence.

It is the obligation of any government to protect the lives of its citizens with any means possible. Israel, or any country, does not need permission to do whatever it takes to protect its people. The fence crossing into some disputed areas is a small price to save thousands of lives.

To paraphrase Charles Krauthammer, for the Israeli, these are questions of life and death; for the traveling moralist, they are an occasion for indignation and advice, the consequences of which are to be observed safely from overseas.

Howard R. Zern, West Hartford

OP-ED

California has to get ethnic studies right to support Black LGBTQ youth

By Sikivu Hutchinson
Los Angeles Times

In October, California became the first state in the U.S. to require ethnic studies for high school graduation starting in 2030. Signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom, the measure was the subject of a more than five-year battle over curriculum content, inclusion and conservative backlash against teaching about racism in K-12 schools.

Bucking the reactionary furor over social justice education, all California students will finally have the opportunity to learn American history beyond the standard narratives of heroic straight white males (and a handful of exceptional people of color). Per the state guidelines, core ethnic studies themes focus on identity, history, systems of power, social movements and equity. But the long-term effects on student learning will ultimately hinge on execution — particularly for marginalized Black LGBTQ youth.

Past education mandates illustrate this problem. Despite the passage of the California Fair Education Act in 2011 mandating the inclusion of LGBTQ contributions to American history in K-12 education — also the first of its kind in the nation — LGBTQ-inclusive social history is still minimal in many California schools. Only 31% of California students reported being taught this material in 2019.

The lack of representation is especially acute for Black queer youth, who are nearly invisible in the curriculum and often thrust into environments where there are no openly identified Black queer teachers or administrators. Middle and high school students raised these issues during a recent youth virtual event organized by the L.A.-based Black LGBTQI+ Parent and Caregiver group.

Thus, simply requiring ethnic studies courses in schools will not redress institutional racism in classrooms or school communities, much as an LGBTQ education mandate didn’t erase heterosexism or transphobia. For ethnic studies to succeed, it must be part of a broader approach to teaching, learning and social-emotional support for students, taking into account the overlap of racial, gender and sexual identities.

Recently, for example, a Black student told me that their parent threatened to kick them out of the house because they identified as queer. Their experiences were virtually identical to those of another student who told me years earlier that she faced religious hostility and the threat of eviction from her mother when she came out. She was told that being bisexual was against God, Blackness and respectable womanhood. Both youth were victimized at the intersections of misogyny (a term for anti-Black misogyny) and homopho-

bia. These factors contribute to high rates of homelessness and incarceration among Black queer youth. According to a 2019 Human Rights Campaign report, only 26% of Black youth reported family involvement in LGBTQ issues or the LGBTQ community.

For Black queer youth, bigotry at home is compounded by in-school bullying and harassment and high rates of school discipline. A 2020 report by the National Black Justice Coalition and GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network) concluded: “The majority of Black LGBTQ students experienced harassment in school ... because of their sexual orientation, gender expression, or race/ethnicity.”

Their survey of self-identifying LGBTQ youth found that this victimization was particularly severe for trans, gender-nonconforming and non-binary Black students as well as for multiracial Black LGBTQ students. These groups appeared to encounter higher levels of social exclusion at school. Moreover, the report noted, “those who experienced both homophobic and racist victimization experienced the poorest academic outcomes and psychological well-being.”

Ethnic studies can make a connection between Black queer legacies of resistance — spotlighting icons such as James Baldwin, Audre Lorde, Bayard Rustin and Marsha P. Johnson — and the lived experi-

ence of Black LGBTQ youth in a way that shifts all students’ perspectives on agency and social change. In these classes students should learn how marginalized communities and unsung, “everyday” leaders played a central role in pushing for the civil and human rights protections we have today.

An LGBTQ-inclusive ethnic studies curriculum should also be accompanied by social supports at school. The 2020 report found that students who had access to queer-affirming and cultural identity-affirming groups, such as gender and sexuality alliances and Black student unions, were more likely to stay in school. Mentoring programs, job training, access to housing for unhoused Black queer youth and culturally responsive therapy can also bolster academic preparedness.

The ethnic studies mandate is a critical step toward ensuring that all students are exposed to culturally relevant education. But unless the curriculum addresses students’ needs outside the classroom — and offers more than one-off mentions of LGBTQ issues during Pride month — it will be yet another mandate with great promise but limited impact.

Sikivu Hutchinson is a co-facilitator of the Black LGBTQIA+ Parent and Caregiver group and the author of “Humanists in the Hood: Unapologetically Black, Feminist, and Heretical.”



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Connecticut

**City of Bristol, Connecticut
INVITATION TO BID**

Notice is hereby given that the Purchasing
Department for the City of Bristol,
Connecticut is accepting sealed responses
on the following:

2022-050 Annual Requirements for
Emergency Construction Services for Bristol
Water Department; due December 8, 2021
at 1:00 pm
2A22-052 Annual Requirements for Gasoline;
due December 9, 2021 at 10:30 am

Sealed responses via the QuestCDN online
bidding system will be accepted until the
due date and time as noted above. The City
reserves the right to waive informalities in
bid responses, and to accept any or all bid
responses, if in its judgment the best inter-
ests of the City will be served. Submission of
bid documents are subject to a \$15.00 bid
posting fee payable to QuestCDN, the cost
of which shall be borne solely by the bidder.

The successful bidder shall not discriminate
against any employee or applicant for
employment because of race, color, religion,
gender, or national origin. The Contractor will
take affirmative action to ensure that applica-
nts are employed, and that employees are
treated during employment without regard to
their race, color, religion, gender, or national
origin.

Plans and specifications can be obtained
online at the website below, or by contacting:

City of Bristol Purchasing Department
111 North Main St, Bristol, CT 06010
Tel. (860) 584-6195
Fax (860) 584-6171
<http://www.bristolct.gov/bids>
11/23/21 7090475

**Contractor Pre-Qualification for Upcoming
Project**

The Bushnell Center for the Performing
Arts is requesting interested contractors to
pre-qualify for an upcoming masonry repair
and ADA accessibility project for the Capitol
Avenue Steps at the Mortensen Theater
(State of Connecticut Unit ID Number 166-
2021) in compliance with all applicable local,
federal, and state statutory requirements
with special attention paid to require-
ments for the Department of Economic
and Community Development (DECD) and
the Commission on Human Rights and
Opportunities (CHRO).

Contractor Pre-Qualification Details

Released: Monday, November 22nd, 2021

Project #: 166-2021
Project Name: Proposed Changes to
Bushnell Theater Steps
Address: 166 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106
Due Date: Wednesday, December 15th, 2021
by 4:00 PM

Professional Consultant: Phase Zero Design
Corp
8 Wilcox Street
Simsbury, CT 06070
Contact Name: Hernan Pagan, AIA
E-mail: hpagan@phasezerodesign.com
Phone: (860) 264-1624
Fax: (860) 264-1628

Scope of Work: Remove and reinstall granite
steps and brick pavers at the Capitol Avenue
Entrance to the Mortensen Theater, including
additional granite work, railings and sidewalk
repair and replacement to provide accessible
access. Additional work includes door hard-
ware improvements. Work to be completed
per Department of Economic and Community
Development (DECD) and State Historic
Preservation Office (SHPO) guidelines and
requirements, and coordination with the City
of Hartford Municipal Services.

Additional Documents: Contractor Pre-
Qualification Documents and Requirements
shall be made available upon request by
contacting Phase Zero Design Corp as noted
above.
11/22, 11/23, 11/24/2021 7089898

CAPITAL REGION

All bid notices for the Capitol Region
Purchasing Council are available at <https://crocq.bonfirehub.com/>. If you have any
questions, please contact the office of the
CRPC 860-724-4292, or e-mail crpcstaff@crocq.org.
11/23/2021 7080340

INVITATION TO BID

Animal Hospital of Putnam Renovation
Putnam, CT 06260
(860)928-1931
Steven.pepper@animalhospitalofputnam.com
Paper and/or digital copies of Drawings,
Specifications, and Addenda for this project
will be available for a fee only at the Joseph
Merritt & Company Plan Room website
<https://www.merrittplanroom.com/>. Login
and click on Public Jobs to VIEW or download
the documents.
11/18, 11/22, 11/23/2021 7088851

The Town of Wethersfield is accepting
proposals on the following:

CUSTODIAL SERVICES

All proposals must be submitted on forms
and in accordance with specifications
supplied by the Town of Wethersfield,
Purchasing Office, 505 Silas Deane Highway,
Wethersfield, CT 06109. Specification
packages may be downloaded at: <https://wethersfieldct.gov/finance/open-bids>

Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m.
local time on December 20, 2021
11/23/21 7091892

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUPERIOR COURT
JUVENILE MATTERS**

ORDER OF NOTICE

Notice to Elizabeth Placeres to male child
born on 11/11/21
of parts unknown.

A petition has been filed seeking:
Commitment of minor child(ren) of the above
named or vesting of custody and care of said
child(ren) of the above named in a lawful,
private or public agency or a suitable and
worthy person.
The petition, whereby the court's decision
can affect your parental rights, if any, regard-
ing minor child(ren) will be heard on:
12-16-21 at 3:00 p.m. at 20 Franklin Sq 3rd
Fl, New Britain, CT 06051.
Hearing on an Order of Temporary Custody
will be heard on 11-23-21 at 10:00 a.m. at
20 Franklin Square, 3rd Floor New Britain,
CT 06051.
Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the
hearing of this petition be given by publishing
this Order of Notice once, immediately upon
receipt, in the Hartford Courant, a newspa-
per having a circulation in the town/city of
Hartford, CT
/s/ Sheila Huddleston, Judge
/s/ Peter J. Fradiani, Deputy Clerk
11/18/2021 DATE

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to
pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure that
an attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public
Defender. Request for an attorney should be
made immediately in person, by mail, or by
fax at the court office where your hearing is
to be held.
11/23/21 7090978

Public Notice

In accordance with City of Hartford Municipal
Code Section 29-16, the Hartford Police
Department is in possession of unclaimed
found property. If you have lost property in
the City of Hartford, contact the HPD Property
Room at 860 757-4180 weekdays 7:A.M to
2:30 PM. Please provide a detailed descrip-
tion of the property, the circumstances of its
loss, and proof of ownership.
Positive identification is required before
property will be released. Found Property is
held for six months after being turned in.
Tues 10/12/12/28/21 7057211

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD
TOWN PLAN & ZONING COMMISSION**

Notice is hereby given that the Town Plan &
Zoning Commission, at a meeting held on
November 18, 2021, rendered the following
decisions:

a. Application by Buffalo-Bloomfield
Associates, LLC for zone boundary change
consisting of a modification to the land use
table to increase the permitted square foot-
age and modify the parking ratio in a Design
Development District for property located at
848 Cottage Grove Road. Approved

b. Application by Buffalo-Bloomfield
Associates, LLC for a Revised Site Plan
Approval at the Gillette Ridge Shoppes to
move and expand the existing Starbucks to
2,930 s.f. and reconfigure the remaining
floor space in the existing retail center for
15,950 s.f. of medical services which
includes a 3,000 s.f. building expansion;
and to add a new 5,040 s.f. stand-alone
building on property owned by Walden Avenue
Blend-All Hotel Development, Inc. and FBBT
Associates located at 848 Cottage Grove
Road. Approved with Conditions
Dated at Bloomfield, Connecticut this 23rd
day of November, 2021.

TOWN PLAN & ZONING COMMISSION
Barry Berson, Chair
Byron Lester, Secretary
11/23/21 7090509

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUPERIOR COURT
JUVENILE MATTERS
ORDER OF NOTICE**

Notice Allison Levy, mother of child born on
8/10/2004 to Recaldo E. of parts unknown
A petition has been filed seeking:
Commitment of minor child(ren) of the above
named or vesting of custody and care of said
child(ren) of the above named in a lawful,
private agency or a suitable and worthy person.
The petition, whereby the court's decision
can affect your parental rights, if any, regard-
ing minor child(ren) will be heard 12/28/21
at 11:30 AM at Superior Court of Hartford
Juvenile Matters 920 Broad Street, Hartford,
CT 06106

Hearing on an Order of Temporary Custody
will be heard on: 11/24/21 at 11:00 AM at
Superior Court of Hartford Juvenile Matters
920 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06106
Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the
hearing of this petition be given by publishing
this Order of Notice once, immediately upon
receipt, in The Hartford Courant, a newspa-
per having circulation in the town/city of:
Hartford, CT
Judge: Hon. Dannelly
Signed: Dannelly
Date Signed: 11/19/21
Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to
pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure that
an attorney is provided to you by the Chief
Public Defender. Request for an attorney
should be made immediately in person, by
mail, or by fax at the court office where your
hearing is to be held.
11/23/2021 7091067

Request For Quotation #02-2118

The State of Connecticut Judicial Branch
invites licensed plumber(s) to submit
quotations to provide plumbing services
as required at Judicial Branch locations in
Hartford and Willimantic, Connecticut.

Quotations must be received by 11:30 A.M.
on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2021. Late bids
will not be accepted.

VENDORS CURRENTLY REGISTERED UNDER
THE STATE'S SMALL BUSINESS SET-ASIDE
PROGRAM ARE ENCOURAGED TO BID.

Bid package may be obtained from the
Judicial Branch Purchasing Services web site
below.

www.jud.ct.gov/external/news/busopp/

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11/23/21 7091068

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUPERIOR COURT
JUVENILE MATTERS**

ORDER OF NOTICE

Notice to John Doe to male child born on
11/11/21
of parts unknown.
A petition has been filed seeking:
Commitment of minor child(ren) of the above
named or vesting of custody and care of said
child(ren) of the above named in a lawful,
private or public agency or a suitable and
worthy person.

The petition, whereby the court's decision
can affect your parental rights, if any,
regarding minor child(ren) will be heard on:
12-16-21 at 3:00 p.m. at 20 Franklin Sq 3rd
Fl, New Britain, CT 06051.

Hearing on an Order of Temporary Custody
will be heard on 11-23-21 at 10:00 a.m. at
20 Franklin Square, 3rd Floor New Britain,
CT 06051.
Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the
hearing of this petition be given by publishing
this Order of Notice once, immediately upon
receipt, in the Hartford Courant, a newspa-
per having a circulation in the town/city of
Hartford, CT
/s/ Sheila Huddleston, Judge
/s/ Peter J. Fradiani, Deputy Clerk
11/18/2021 DATE

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to
pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure an
attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public
Defender. Request for an attorney should be
made immediately in person, by mail, or by
fax at the court office where your hearing is
to be held.
11/23/21 7090995

Other

Extra Space Storage will hold a public
auction to sell personal property described
below belonging to those individuals
listed below at the location indicated: 453
Washington Avenue North Haven CT 06473
on 11/30/2021 at 1:00 pm. Yao Wang unit
3074 boxes, mattress, guitar, Nicole Dinello
unit 3147-48 house accessories, gym equip-
ment, boxes. The auction will be listed and
advertised on www.storage-treasures.com
Nov. 16th & 23rd, 2021 7084459

Steve Dale's
PET WORLD

Sundays in Smarter Living

Liquor Notices

**LIQUOR PERMIT
NOTICE OF APPLICATION**

This is to give notice that I, **FERNANDO
F AVILA, 70 WOODBRIDGE AVE EAST
HARTFORD, CT 06108-4004**. Have filed an
application placarded **11/10/2021** with the
Department of Consumer Protection for a
RESTAURANT WINE & BEER PERMIT for the
sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at
**980 MAIN ST EAST HARTFORD CT 06108-
2220**. The business will be owned by EL
SABROSO POLLOS A LA BRASA RESTAURANT
LLC. Entertainment will consist of: Acoustics
(not amplified), Karaoke. Objections must be
filed by: 12-22-2021.

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OBITUARIES BY TOWN

AVON

Jacob L... Ganci

BERLIN

Richard K. Hudlow Iii

DURHAM

Richard J. Kaika, Sr.

EAST HARTFORD

Elisa A. Andreoli

ELLINGTON

Robert L. Cote

William F. Reilly*

ENFIELD

Peter C. Gallerani*

William F. Reilly*

GLASTONBURY

Lynn M. Plummer

HARTFORD

Elisa A. Andreoli

James E. Davidson

Krystyna Farley

HARWINTON

Krystyna Farley

MIDDLETOWN

Jean Delegan*

NEW BRITAIN

Krystyna Farley

NEW HAVEN

Jacob L... Ganci

NEWINGTON

Elisa A. Andreoli

Richard K. Hudlow Iii

NORFOLK

Krystyna Farley

ROCKY HILL

Jacob L... Ganci

SOMERS

Peter C. Gallerani*

SOUTHINGTON

Robert Sidorik*

SUFFIELD

Marilyn E. DiPrato

Peter C. Gallerani*

TOLLAND

Jacob L... Ganci

TORRINGTON

Arthur W.

Batchelder, Jr.

UNIONVILLE

Krystyna Farley

WATERBURY

Lynn M. Plummer

WEST HARTFORD

Jacob L... Ganci

WINDSOR

Richard K. Hudlow Iii

WINDSOR LOCKS

Marilyn E. DiPrato

OUT OF STATE

Barbara Bensch Schults*

Exeter, NH

* Denotes name listing only.

Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Batchelder, Jr., Arthur W.

Arthur Warren Batchelder, Jr. born September 18, 1932 in Springfield, MA to Arthur W. (d, 1995) and Anna (Martino) (d, 1998) died of natural cause on November 19th at his home in St. Petersburg, FL. He was dressed in his UCONN sweatshirt ready to go to happy hour at his favorite hangout, GIGi's, with his best friend Jim. He graduated from UCONN in 1955 and was commissioned a 2nd LT. in the US Army. He spent time in Korea and Germany.

Tex resided in Virginia Beach, VA until moving to Massachusetts where he worked for Data General before retiring to Florida.

Besides his two sons, Arthur W. III, wife Leslie of NC and Thomas E, wife, Heather of AK, he leaves 10 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren and his brother, Gary, wife Jane of Vernon, CT. He also leaves many cherished friends in St. Petersburg.

A donation to any cat shelter in his name would make him happy.

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](#)

Ganci, Jacob L



Jacob Ganci, 22, of Rocky Hill, passed away unexpectedly on November 15th, 2021. His sudden loss has left his family and friends deeply saddened. Jacob was born on June 4, 1999, to Michael Ganci and the late Rebecca Ganci in Tolland, CT. Jacob graduated from Tolland High School in 2017. Jacob faced many trials in his short life, but his sweet nature and kind soul never wavered. The love he had for his family and friends, especially his younger brother Andrew and his nephew Camden, always shone through even the most difficult of times. Jacob will always be remembered for his talent for writing, performing and producing music. His love, ok obsession, with buying and selling sneakers also brought him joy. Engrained in our memories will be his beautiful smile (and smirk). Jacob was predeceased by his mother, Rebecca Ganci. May they rest together in eternal peace. He is survived by his father, Michael Ganci, brother Andrew Ganci, and loving family members and friends too numerous to mention by name. A celebration of his life will be held on Friday, November 26th, 2021 in South Windsor at the Charles N. Enes Community Center, 150 Nevers Road from 1-4. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Shatterproof, a non-profit organization located in Norwalk, CT at Shatterproof.org.

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](#)

Plummer, Lynn Marie (McGrath)



Lynn Marie (McGrath) Tata Plummer, 70, of Glastonbury died unexpectedly at home on Thursday, November 11, 2021. She was the much-loved wife and best friend of Dr. Jack K. Plummer. Born in Waterbury, she was the daughter of the late Thomas E. McGrath and Marie (Logan) Green. She attended Hopewell School and Crosby High School prior to receiving a bachelor's degree in Education from Central Connecticut State College (now University). Lynn had a very successful career as a Respiratory Therapist at Waterbury Hospital and later for patients at home. She founded the first educational program for youth with respiratory problems. She was also the co-owner of J&L Medical Services until August of 2018. She received numerous awards and professional recognition such as Entrepreneur of the Year, Best Respiratory Provider in the Nation and Outstanding Therapist for Professional Commitment and Service. Lynn was a longtime resident of Waterbury before moving to Glastonbury in 2003. She was an active board member serving on the Chamber of Commerce Business Women's Forum, an avid supporter of the Palace Theater, and volunteer of the American Lung Association, 100 Women Who Can and the Greater Waterbury and Hartford YWCAs. Philanthropy was a major activity of the couple's life. She also regularly attended state, regional and national psychological association meetings with her psychologist husband, preparing for those meetings and being acquainted with many greats of that profession. Lynn was an incredible cook, an amazing hostess of dinner parties, recently serving an elegant, 7-course gourmet meal to close friends. She also often gifted her creations to her neighbors. Lynn and her husband loved to travel throughout the U.S and Europe. She talked with everyone she encountered. Jack said to her often that she was loved by all who knew her which she always disputed. She will be sorely missed. In addition to her husband, she is survived by her daughter, Stacey Tata and her husband, Dr. Aaron Denowitz of Los Angeles, CA, her daughter, Kristen Rowland and her husband, Glenn of Sandy Springs, GA along with grandchildren, Jacob and Hannah, her brother, Thomas McGrath and her sister, Patricia Travisano and her husband Richard, Sr. of The Villages, FL, her sister-in-law, Lori Callahan and niece, Rachel Callahan of Eugene, OR and her niece, Kristen Touissant of Indianapolis, IN and nephew, Richard Travisano, Jr. of Mitchell, IN. No services are planned at this time. There are no calling hours. For online condolences, please visit [www.mulryanfh.com](#)

MULRYAN

FUNERAL HOME

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](#)


OBITUARIES

Andreoli, Elisa Ann

Elisa Ann Andreoli, 96, of Newington, passed away peacefully on Sunday, November 21, 2021 at Maple View Health & Rehabilitation Center in Rocky Hill. Born on January 30, 1925 in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late Nicola "Nicholas" and Olympia (Grasso) Andreoli and had lived in the area all her life. Elisa worked for many years for a medical supply company. She was a longtime, faithful communicant of St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church in Hartford. She loved traveling and dancing.

Elisa will be forever missed by her niece, Joyce Rediker of East Hartford, as well as several other nieces and nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and dear friends. She was predeceased by two brothers, Frederick Andreoli and Leo Andreoli as well as two sisters, Ella Pollack and Olympia Andreoli.

Calling hours are Wednesday, November 24 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at the D'Esopo-East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church, 285 Church Street, Hartford. Burial will be in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. To share a memory of Elisa with her family, please visit [www.desopoeh.com](#).




D'Esopo

Funeral Chapel

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Kaika, Sr., Richard J.




RICHARD J. KAIKA, SR.
1934 – 2021

Richard died November 19th, peacefully surrounded by family, after a long illness. He was 87 and lived in Durham, CT. He was predeceased by his mother Josephine Kaika, sister, Eleanor and brother, Edward. He is survived by his devoted and loving wife of 68 years, Connie, and their children, daughter Susan Badrick & husband Joe, son Richard Kaika Jr. & wife Rae, son Thomas Kaika & wife Karen, daughter Sharon Kaika, along with eight grandchildren, five great grandchildren and sister Dorothy. Richard loved spending time with his family and always greeted people with a warm embracing smile. He enjoyed boating, clamming, waterskiing and golfing. He was an exceptionally hard worker, retired from New Departure Mfg. Co. in Bristol, CT in 1990. During his years with New Departure, he along with his lifelong friend, Kenny Klemba, founded K&K TV Antenna. Then, in the early 1980s he and a close friend founded the Durham Fence Company. A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, November 27th at 10 a.m. at Notre Dame Catholic Church, 272 Main St., Durham, CT followed by burial at Pine Grove Cemetery, 857 S. Main St. Middletown, CT. There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers a donation may be made to his favorite charity St. Jude's Children's Hospital. To share memories or express condolences online please visit [www.biegafuneralhome.com](#).

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](#)

DiPrato, Marilyn E



Marilyn E. DiPrato, 95, of Windsor Locks passed away peacefully with her sons by her side on Saturday, November 20, 2021. Marilyn, born August 12, 1926, in Bridgewater, Maine. She was the daughter of Beth MacDonald. After graduating High School at 16, she moved to Hartford to attend hair-dressing school. While residing in Hartford, she met her future husband Victor DiPrato. Soon after marriage, they moved to Windsor Locks where they raised four boys. It was here that Marilyn began her hairdressing business, Marilyn's Beauty Salon. She enjoyed her salon, retiring at 85. She is survived by Perry DiPrato (Kathleen) of Suffield and Tracey DiPrato (Stephanie) of Tiverton, RI, and two daughters-in-law, Maureen DiPrato and Lori DiPrato, both of Windsor Locks. She leaves behind the daughter she always wanted, Christine O'Connor Wrabel. Marilyn also leaves behind her grandchildren, Marilyn leaves behind her grandchildren, Meghan, Jared, Fiorella, Jesse, David, Kim, Karen, Anthony, Tyler, Brentney, Donna, Gina, Bianca and Bailey and six great grandchildren., and six great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband Victor, two sons, Bruce and Dean, and two brothers Buddy and Lloyd. A special thank you to Trish Houghton for taking care of our Mother. Marilyn enjoyed life to the fullest, especially with her family and friends. A funeral service will be celebrated for Marilyn at 11 am on Wednesday, November 24, 2021 at Windsor Locks Funeral Home, 441 Spring St, Windsor Locks. Guests are welcome to arrive up to 30 minutes prior to the service to greet the family. Burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery. Donations in Marilyn's memory may be made to Dementia Society of America, PO Box 600, Doylestown, PA 18901 or visit [https://www.dementiasociety.org/donate](#). For online condolences, please visit [www.windsorlocksfuneralhome.com](#).

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OBITUARIES

Davidson, James E.




James E. Davidson, 77 of Hartford, CT. He entered into rest on November 18, 2021 peacefully surrounded by his sons. James leaves behind to cherish his memories: his six sons Tommie C. (Josephine) Dixon, Ellis G. Dixon, Drice, Vincent, and James A. Davidson, all of Hartford, CT. DeBrandson (Irma) Davidson of East Hartford, CT. Siblings, grandchildren, great grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services: Wednesday, November 24 at 10AM, All Faith Memorial Chapel, 90 John Fitch Blvd, South Windsor.

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](#)

Hudlow III, Richard K



Richard K. Hudlow III 54, of Berlin, husband of Karen (Killius) Hudlow passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 20, 2021 surrounded by his family at his parents home. He bravely persevered and remained as positive as possible while courageously battling against cancer. Richard is the son of Dick and Eva Hudlow.

Richard grew up in the Candlewyck neighborhood of Newington making lifelong friendships. Richard was a 1986 graduate of Newington High School. He was a member of the football team and loved playing along side his best friend John. His true passions were driving a truck most recently for M&M Transport, Nascar racing and snowmobiling with his family and best friends. He was a devoted uncle to his nephew Colby attending his numerous hockey practices, games and tournaments throughout New England.

In addition to his wife and parents, he is survived by his son, Andrew of Berlin, siblings Dawn and her husband Kyle of Lee, MA, Lisa and her husband Jeff of Stoddard, NH.

His family will receive friends for a celebration of his life at the home of his parents, Dick and Eva Hudlow on Saturday, November 27, 2021 from 1pm - 3pm at 34 Woodduck Farms, Windsor, CT.

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](#)

Cote, Robert L.



Robert L. Cote, 76, of Ellington, beloved husband of 54 years to Julia (Fellows) Cote, passed away at his home on Saturday, November 20, 2021 with his family at his side. Born in Hartford, the son of the late Arthur and Evonne (Bromley) Cote, he grew up and lived in Newington and Enfield before moving to Ellington over 48 years ago. Robert earned his undergraduate degree and his teaching certificate from the University of Connecticut. He taught school in Somers High School and Middle School for over 20 years. Robert was in retail auto sales in the Middletown area for over 15 years before retiring in 2000. He was an avid golfer and played routinely in Somers. He enjoyed music, fishing, boating and was a fan of UCONN women's basketball. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children, Janet Cote of Maynard, MA, Daniel Cote of Simi Valley, CA, and Thomas Cote and his wife Catherine of Ashburn, VA; four grandchildren, Saia, Adrian, and Parker Cote, and Arabella Brown, and several extended family members and friends. His family will receive friends for memorial calling hours on Friday, November 26, 2021 from 5 - 7 p.m. at the Ladd-Turkington & Carmon Funeral Home, 551 Talcottville Road (Route 83), Vernon. Burial will be private and at the convenience of his family. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Robert's memory may be sent to Cape Cod National Seashore, 99 Marconi Site Road, Wellfleet, MA 02667. For online condolences and guest book, please visit [www.carmonfuneralhome.com](#)



CARMON

Community Funeral Homes

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](#)

Farley, Krystyna (Stachowicz)



Krystyna (Stachowicz) Farley, 96, of New Britain, wife of Edward Farley, passed away Friday (November 19) at her home. Born in Poland, she lived in England after WWII, moving to New Britain in 1955. Krystyna was an aide in a hospital during WWII with the Polish Army under British command. She was employed at Juno Manufacturing in Meriden for ten years, retiring in 1991. Krystyna was Mrs. Senior Connecticut in 2016 and authored a book So Far From Home four years ago. She was a member of St. Francis of Assisi Church in New Britain, the Church Ladies Guild and the Culture Club of Greater Hartford.

Besides her husband Ed, she leaves a son, George Slowikowski and his wife Geri of Harwinton; 4 daughters, Alice Czerepka of Unionville, Krystyna Vaccarro of Merritt Island, FL, and Elizabeth Negri of Norfolk, and Eva Davis of Syracuse, NY; a brother, Frank Stachowicz of London, England; a sister, Natalie Rak of Cape Canaveral, FL; 10 grandchildren; five great grandchildren; a niece and four nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Wednesday 10 AM at St. Francis of Assisi Church 1755 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06053. Please go DIRECTLY to the Church. Burial will follow at St. Mary Cemetery in New Britain. Calling hours are Tuesday (TODAY) 4 to 7 PM at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain. Memorial donations may be made to Polish Culture Club of Greater Hartford, PO Box 380699, East Hartford, CT 06138. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at [www.carlsonfuneral-home.com](#)

CARLSON

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Share memories, express condolences, and celebrate life in the obituary section on [courant.com](#).



Hartford Courant

CONNECTICUT

COURANT.COM/CONNECTICUT

Budget surplus nears \$900 million

Thanks to booming stock market and federal aid, projection has almost doubled over past month

By Christopher Keating
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — With more federal money than expected, Connecticut's budget surplus has grown by more than \$400 million over the past month to nearly \$900 million.

The once-troubled Special Transportation Fund is now projecting a surplus of \$183 million for the current fiscal year, and the state's Rainy Day Fund for fiscal emergencies could hit \$5 billion

by June 30, according to the latest statistics from Gov. Ned Lamont's budget office.

"The markets have done well, and the federal money certainly made a difference as well," said Rep. Patrick Boyd, a Pomfret Democrat who serves as co-chairman of the House Moderate Caucus. "So it's kind of a perfect storm of a lot of different things happening at once. It's a much better position."

While the federal money will eventually run out, state legisla-

tors are pleased with the surpluses as they head into the election year of 2022. As the money poured in last year, both Lamont and some lawmakers said there is no reason to talk about tax increases when the money is flowing in.

By comparison, the rainy day fund in 2011 was zero, and the state sustained through operating deficits in the ensuing years as lawmakers tried to wrestle with the state's unfunded pension liability. But the federal money and the long run of record-breaking increases on Wall Street has surprised many legislators.

"We are going to look back at this time when we are flush with cash

as the good old days," said Rep. Kerry Wood, a Rocky Hill Democrat who co-chairs the House Moderate Caucus. "This is a huge opportunity to pay down debt."

The recent consensus revenue estimates showed that federal funding of \$2.2 billion in the current fiscal year is expected to drop by \$500 million next year to the more normal level of \$1.7 billion. But the overall improvement has allowed the state to increase its bond rating this year after long-running problems of slow job and personal income growth. A midyear projection of a surplus nearing \$900 million would have been unthinkable in

earlier times.

"It's unbelievable given where we were only a couple of years ago," Boyd said. "In my first term in 2017, we didn't think that a time like this would be on the near horizon."

Boyd credited the legislature's bipartisan budget agreement in 2017 when Republicans and Democrats enacted major fiscal reforms of a spending cap, bonding cap, and volatility cap that prevented the legislature from spending increased capital gains taxes on Wall Street above a certain threshold. Now, the extra money must be placed

Turn to Budget, Page 2



UConn football coach Jim Mora maneuvers a pallet jack through the Foodshare distribution center in Wallingford on Monday. Mora and Gov. Ned Lamont visited to cheer on volunteers as they ship more than 51,000 holiday meals for those in need. DON STACOM PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT

‘IT’S ABOUT SERVING OTHERS’

Lamont, Huskies’ Mora laud Foodshare volunteers during pre-holiday rush

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

Connecticut Foodshare volunteers are scrambling to send more than 51,000 Thanksgiving dinners to needy Connecticut residents before Wednesday evening, but not just in the state's poorest cities.

"There's a real misnomer out there that 'you guys deliver a lot of food to Bridgeport, New Haven and Hartford,'" Foodshare President Jason Jakubowski said Monday.

"We definitely do deliver a lot of food to Bridgeport, New Haven and Hartford — but we also deliver food to Avon, Simsbury, Farmington, Union,

Canterbury and Cornwall," he said. "All 169 towns have someone facing poverty."

Jakubowski spoke at his agency's Wallingford distribution center during a visit by Gov. Ned Lamont and new UConn football coach Jim Mora, who showed up to cheer the dozens of volunteers hurriedly transferring pallets of turkeys, cranberry sauce, potatoes and more.

This is the busiest week of the year for Foodshare, which distributes food to the need through about 700 local organizations and charities around Connecticut.

Late Monday morning was the

Turn to Foodshare, Page 2



Foodshare volunteers and employees talk with Lamont on Monday at the organization's Wallingford distribution center.

Coronavirus in Connecticut

No new masking rules in works

Despite rising metrics, state and local officials hold off on mandates

By Alex Putterman
Hartford Courant

Despite rapidly increasing COVID-19 numbers in Connecticut, local and state officials said Monday they don't plan to implement new mask mandates or other pandemic-related restrictions.

"I've seen that each wave has been less than it was before, I think we're going to see real pickup in terms of boosters, we're going to see real pickups in terms of child vaccines, and I don't foresee any additional mandates," Gov. Ned Lamont said. "Certainly not given the current state."

Connecticut currently has no statewide requirement that vaccinated people wear masks in public, and only a handful of towns and cities have maintained the mask mandates they imposed over the summer. That's despite the fact COVID-19 cases have more than doubled over the past two weeks, leaving all eight Connecticut counties at a level the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines as "high" transmission — meaning residents there are advised to wear masks.

Dr. Manisha Juthani, Connecticut's commissioner of public health, said Monday that she recommends residents wear masks in public but doesn't see mandates as necessary, noting that the state currently has fewer people hospitalized with COVID-19 than during previous spikes.

"At this point people are well aware of what the benefit of masking is in our community," Juthani said. "Ultimately it's going to be up to the citizens of Connecticut to decide how they're going to move forward with protecting themselves and others around them."

For now, local officials seem to agree. Though some towns and cities — most notably New Haven — still require residents to wear

Turn to Masks, Page 2

Pratt & Whitney sells former airfield to Mass. developer

Officials tout 'tremendous opportunity' ahead for 300-acre property adjacent to Rentschler Field

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

Pratt & Whitney has sold its 300-acre former airfield to a development company for unspecified commercial activity, the jet engine manufacturer said Monday.

The site, which is located adjacent to Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field, was acquired by Massachusetts development firm National Development. The property will offer businesses more than 280 acres for development. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

CBRE, the commercial real estate services company that

brought Pratt & Whitney and National Development together, said it believes the site is the largest and most convenient development property available between Boston and New York.

Pratt & Whitney and CBRE touted the site's proximity to Interstates 84 and 91. It includes the sporting goods retailer Cabela's and is adjacent to the 40,000-seat football stadium that's home to the University of Connecticut.

"This brings tremendous opportunity for economic development to Rentschler Field, which could have a very positive impact on the overall Greater Hartford area," said

Shane Eddy, senior vice president and chief operations officer at Pratt & Whitney.

Edward Marsteiner, managing partner at National Development, said the company is enthusiastic about the potential for the next phase of development. It did not provide details about its plans for the site and a spokeswoman did not return a call seeking information.

Rich Kehoe, chairman of East Hartford's Town Council, said National Development will be expected to propose a development that aligns with the town's master plan for the Silver Lane corridor that calls for mixed use of retail, commercial and manufacturing.

"I'm not sure what they have in

Turn to Pratt, Page 2



Jet engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney said Monday it has sold its 300-acre Rentschler Field to a Massachusetts development company. COURANT FILE PHOTO

CONNECTICUT

‘Hip Hop for the Homeless’ concerts returning live

Hartford’s Joey Batts will bring his show to 7 cities in December

By Christopher Arnott
Hartford Courant

Local rapper and promoter Joey Batts is back with his “Hip Hop for the Homeless” benefit series — live and in person, in multiple cities, as it was always intended to be.

“I’m super happy to be back live,” Batts said. “Being able to get local musicians back onstage in front of an audience is important. The local music scene, and the whole local arts scene, took such a hit during the pandemic. This brings the creative community together.”

The events raise thousands of dollars every year that go directly to homeless shelters in the cities where the concerts are hosted.

Seven cities are involved this year: Dec. 2 at The Statehouse in New Haven, benefiting Columbus House; Dec. 3 at Hoops n Hops in Simsbury, benefiting the Simsbury Food Pantry; Dec. 4 at The Oasis in New London, benefiting the New London Homeless Hospital-ity Center; Dec. 8 at The Main Pub in Manchester, benefiting MACC Charities; Dec. 9 at Four Ropes Boxing Gym in Hartford, benefit- ing Hands of Hartford; Dec. 10 at Gallery 66 in New Britain, benefit- ing The Friendship Center; and Dec. 11



Hartford rapper Joey Batts’s eighth “Hip Hop for the Homeless” benefit concerts will once again be live, at seven clubs in seven Connecticut cities. **HIP HOP FOR THE HOMELESS/COURTESY**

at JD’s Roadhouse in Norwich, with the beneficiary yet to be announced.

Performers taking part in the benefits include: Ceschi Ramos (whose new album “This Guitar Was Stolen Along With Years of Our Lives” was recently released and who has barely played in Hart- ford since COVID), N.M.E. the Illest

(whose new album “Die on Stage” is due soon), musicians/podcasters 50x50’s, Stryfe, Jobo, Ron Lynch III, Mo Niklz, Chef the chef, AQMNI, White Cheddar, Meech and Batts himself.

As the concerts draw closer, further details will be posted on Batts’ Facebook pages, facebook.

com/rapjoeybatts and facebook. com/HipHopfortheHomeless.

Batts (aka Joe Battaglia) will host all the events and perform at two of them, in Hartford and Norwich. He’s been a familiar face in the city’s music scene for 20 years — as a solo artist, with the band Joey Batts and Them, as a phenomenological icon

on his once ubiquitous “Joey Batts is your best friend” stickers and as a co-owner of the sadly short-lived Royal club on Park Street. He’s currently working on a concept album about the four elements of matter: earth, water, fire and air.

Besides the continual changes with “Hip Hop for the Homeless” and his other projects, Batts’ day job has changed, too. After 14 years of teaching in the Hartford public school system, he now teaches American literature at Manchester High School.

Last year’s “Hip Hop for the Homeless” series was a virtual stream of live performances from multiple locations but without live audiences. The fundraising went well, Batts says, thanks to a GoFundMe page that allowed for extra donations and merchandise sales, but a critical sense of involve- ment, that comes from being in the room, was lacking.

“This year,” Batts said, “we focus on getting people out again, while keeping people safe.”

Also crucial: performing in the cities where the concerts’ benefi- ciaries are on the streets.

“There have been shows where we’ve gone off stage and brought canned goods directly to the home- less,” Batts said. “We’re in the trenches.”

Christopher Arnott can be reached at carnott@courant.com.



UConn football coach Jim Mora speaks at the Foodshare distribution center in Wallingford on Monday. **DON STACOM/HARTFORD COURANT**

Foodshare

from Page 1

delivery time slot for New Oppor- tunities of Greater Meriden, which is getting 300 turkeys to give to families from Meriden, Walling- ford, Southington and Berlin. The organization isn’t seeing as many people in need as last year, but the poverty among those who show up for food is even worse, Director Dona Ditrio told Lamont.

“Last year we were seeing prob- ably twice as many families as we’re seeing now, but part of what helped last year was that there was extra money in the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assis- tance Program) benefits,” Ditrio said. “As of November, families are not getting that extra money. And the cost of rent is going up.”

The Meriden shipment is part of the 51,291 turkeys that Foodshare gathered in the past weeks, some directly donated and others bought with cash contributions.

“The people of Connecticut are extremely generous; they helped us meet that goal,” Jakobowski said. “We also provide sides — we have some apples, carrots, onions, potatoes, sweet potatoes. We try to give people as much of a great Thanksgiving as we possibly can.”

Mora briefly ran a forklift of potatoes from the warehouse floor to a waiting delivery truck, then walked back to thank the crew of volunteers.

“These are the people who give so generously and selflessly to others to make sure that people who need a little lift have the opportunity to spend time around the table enjoying a special meal on this day of Thanksgiving,” Mora

said, gesturing to a line of Food- share workers and volunteers in the warehouse.

“It’s all about team and it’s about serving others, being selfless,” Mora added. “When I look at all of you, that’s what I see — a team that’s largely volunteers. You’re serving others and you’re selfless in doing it. That what makes winners, that’s what makes people feel good, that’s what enhances lives.”

Lamont shook hands with dozens of volunteers, stopping occasionally to talk and pose for their selfies.

“I love what you’re doing, I love the generosity of people who made this all possible,” Lamont said. “Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday. A, it’s sort of uniquely American. And B, we’re all so crabby with each other the other 364 days a year. I like that there’s one day of the year where we say thank you for the amazing blessings we have.”

Jakubowski estimated that the Thanksgiving meals will serve about 225,000 people, assuming an average of four people per family. Jakobowski said he’s cheered that the demand for food is down from last year.

“The good news is, the numbers are not as high as they were a year ago. I remember on the day before Thanksgiving being on the roof of Rentschler Field and looking at the line of cars wrapping around,” Jakubowski said. “It was a very difficult thing to realize that that was Connecticut in 2020.

“The numbers are better than they were at the peak of the pandemic. The bad news is we are still not where we were pre-pandemic. There are 480,000 people in the state who are food insecure.”

Masks

from Page 1

masks indoors in public places, most do not, with many having lifted their mandates just before the recent uptick.

West Hartford Town Manager Matt Hart said Monday that local leaders hadn’t yet discussed renewing the town’s mask requirement “but will continue to monitor conditions.” In South Windsor, Town Manager Michael Maniscalco said it’s not yet time for a new mandate.

“We watch the COVID-19 infection numbers very closely and will make a determination if they get to a point of concern,” Maniscalco said in an email. “We have not reached that point yet.”

Hartford was one of the first Connecticut municipalities to install a mask mandate in August but lifted it in early November as cases leveled off. On Monday,

a spokesperson for Mayor Luke Bronin noted that the city had a lower rate of new cases than some other parts of Connecti- cut and said local officials would “continue to monitor trends in Hartford and the state.”

After requiring masks in indoor public spaces throughout much of 2020 and early 2021, Lamont lifted his statewide mask mandate last spring. When cases increased again over the summer as a result of the delta variant, the governor deferred mask-related decisions to municipalities.

Local officials across the state have said repeatedly said they would prefer statewide masking guidelines, to avoid the patch- work of policies that results when towns and cities make their own rules. Even as he said Monday that South Windsor was not ready to reimpose a mask mandate, Maniscalco nudged Lamont to take statewide action.

“Our position has still not

changed that Governor Lamont should use his emergency powers to help mitigate the impact,” he said.

Juthani said she recommends local officials discuss with their local health departments whether mask requirements are neces- sary in their communities. As for a statewide mask mandate, she said that will depend largely on hospital capacity.

“At this point, the hospital census is the thing that would really drive any sort of changes,” she said. “And I don’t see us getting to the place we’ve been before, with therapies that we have, including monoclonal antibodies, vaccinations, boost- ers — all the different things that science has been able to get to a point where the hospitals aren’t at a breaking point like they were very early on in this pandemic.”

Alex Putterman can be reached at aputterman@courant.com.

Budget

from Page 1

into the rainy day fund, and if the fund exceeds certain levels, the money goes directly toward paying down the state’s debts.

“We certainly can’t let our guard down because the federal money is a one-time thing, and the market is volatile, Boyd said. “While times are good, we need to continue to be fiscally responsible and spend money wisely and still prepare for a rainy day in the future because it might get worse. We don’t know.”

While the initial numbers are still small, Lamont’s budget office noted that online sports betting and gambling started in October.

“Thus far, the state has collected approximately \$1.7 million in revenue of the projected fiscal year target of \$30.5 million of new revenue from the CT Lottery Corpo- ration and both casinos,” state budget director Melissa McCaw said in her monthly

letter with the latest numbers.

McCaw noted that the state will not be able to roll up surpluses as easily into the future.

“The adopted budget for the biennium was balanced with more than \$1.75 billion in one-time federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act being used for general revenue replacement,” she said. “In order to offset the expiration of that one-time funding, the state will need to experience significant revenue growth this biennium to prevent a large budgetary gap in FY 2024 and beyond.”

Rep. Holly Cheeseman, the ranking House Republican on the tax-writing commit- tee, recently said, “Connecti- cut needs to maintain its fiscal discipline and not double down on detrimental tax policy that would hurt working class fami- lies or push high-income earn- ers out of state.”

Christopher Keating can be reached at ckeating@courant.com

Pratt

from Page 1

mind,” he said.

Kehoe said many of National Development’s projects in the Boston area “would be consis- tent with our vision of Rentschler Field.”

East Hartford Mayor Mike Walsh said he will “eagerly wait to hear what the next steps such development will bring.”

Defense and aviation giant Raytheon Technologies Corp., the parent company of Pratt & Whit- ney, considered marketing the site early this year for a warehouse or distribution center, but it didn’t fly. The proposal didn’t conform with East Hartford’s ideas for the Silver Lane corridor, Kehoe said.

State Rep. Jason Rojas, a Demo- crat whose district includes East Hartford, called the deal between Pratt & Whitney and National Development a “significant invest- ment” that will be a catalyst for more development at Rentschler Field.

A proposed 282,000-square foot retail center failed in March 2018. The developer and state and local officials had celebrated the proj- ect that was to include 70 shops, restaurants, a central courtyard with a fireplace and a children’s play area.

Stephen Singer can be reached at ssinger@courant.com.,

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CONNECTICUT



The Wadsworth Atheneum is undergoing a leadership transition. The board that will be a part of that transition was just elected at the museum's annual meeting. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

At Wadsworth, eyes on future

Newly named president says board is focused on moving museum forward

By Christopher Arnott
Hartford Courant

At its annual meeting on Nov. 18, The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art made Gerard Lupacchino the new president of its board, and Duffield Ashmead IV its senior vice president.

Lupacchino, who is senior vice president of human experience for Hartford HealthCare, had been interim board president since William R. Peelle Jr. stepped down from the position unexpectedly in April. Before then, Lupacchino has been the president of the board of TheaterWorks Hartford for years, including when the theater underwent months of major renovations and related fundraising. He also co-chaired the Hartford Symphony Orchestra Bravo! fundraising galas for this year and last year.

The Wadsworth is in the midst of a transition to a new leadership model, from a sole director/CEO to a structure where the artistic and business concerns are split between a separate director and CEO. Jeffrey Brown was announced as the new CEO earlier this month. A search is still underway for the new director.

“I have to be an active board member, no matter where I am,” Lupacchino told the Courant Monday afternoon. Chairing the Atheneum board at a time of growth and transition is “a great opportunity for me.” He has already used his experience at TheaterWorks to bring The Wadsworth in touch with companies that can help with the search for a new director.

Lupacchino says he had committed to be on the TheaterWorks board through its renovations, and stayed on longer due to the

COVID crisis.

Lupacchino says he has been visiting the museum regularly since he was 10 years old. “I used to take the bus from Manchester. When there’s talk about old exhibits, I say ‘I saw that one,’ and they say ‘There’s no way you saw that,’ but I did.”

Lupacchino becomes board president as the museum in engaged in an ongoing discussion about its relevance in the community. “The same thing happened at TheaterWorks,” he says. “The population is changing and evolving. I have been to museums which have not changed at all, where they open the doors and people are there to look at the art. That can happen, but we don’t have that luxury here. What’s the point of opening the doors if you can’t bring people inside?”

He says there’s a multi-point strategy to make the museum more relevant, and that one of them is to “showcase storytelling.” He mentions how an object

like an antique mirror can bring up stories not just of the owners of a house but of slaves who might have served in that house or local industry.

He says the newly elected board has a “really wonderful dynamic: old and new, innovative and traditional, all asking how we can move this museum forward.”

Other officers of the board elected on Nov. 18 are Cheryl Chase, Michael Klein and Hy Schwartz as vice presidents, Emilie de Brigard as secretary and Frederick Copeland, treasurer. Interim board appointees Robert Dance and Elsa Núñez were elected to full terms. Lily de Jongh Down- ing was made a new trustee of The Wadsworth. New members of the museum’s board of electors are Jane Britton, Erin K. Cardon, Carol Cheney, Joanne Eudy, Douglas John, Andre Rochester, and Jesse Sugarman.

Christopher Arnott can be reached at carnott@courant.com.

Man arrested in attempted sex trafficking

Scheme revealed when he told police teen victim stole his car, records show

By Zach Murdock
Hartford Courant

A Cromwell man arrested on attempted sex-trafficking charges last week had been advertising young teens he met online who he claimed were available to perform sex acts in exchange for cash, new court records reveal.

Anthony Lazzari, 46, first contacted the girls over Snapchat in 2019, according to an arrest warrant affidavit detailing the investigation.

But in early 2020, Lazzari turned to advertising the girls on the fetish page of an online escort service, unsuccessfully trying to arrange for several of them to perform sex acts with other paying men, court records show.

Meriden police stumbled upon the attempted trafficking scheme last fall after Lazzari called police to have one of his alleged victims arrested for stealing his car — only to have the girl instead detail the entire ordeal to police alongside screenshots of their Snapchat messages with Lazzari about the arrangements.

Lazzari was arrested last week on a warrant charging him with 10 sex offenses, including four counts of criminal attempt to commit commercial sex abuse of a minor and three counts of criminal attempt to commit trafficking of persons. He remains in custody ahead of an arraignment Tuesday in New Haven.

Meriden police first encountered Lazzari on Sept. 3, 2020, when he called officers to report that the person who had stolen his gray Chevy Trax six weeks earlier was inside the Sam’s Market on Lewis Avenue, court records show.

But when officers confronted the alleged

thief inside, they instead met a then-16-year-old girl who told them Lazzari had been “pimping” young girls on the Berlin Turnpike and had tried to arrange for her to have sex with other paying men.

Detectives found Lazzari a few days later getting into his Chevy Trax at a Stop & Shop and detained him while they presented him with a search warrant for the vehicle.

A detective dialed the number from the online escort ads and watched through the car window as the phone sitting on the front driver seat of Lazzari’s Chevy began to ring, records show.

Further searches revealed the phone’s IP address matched the one used to post the online ads and Lazzari’s Snapchat data on the phone confirmed the messages the girl had provided to police. The messages turned explicitly sexual within four weeks of their first interaction, investigators found.

Members of Meriden’s Special Crimes Unit learned Lazzari would be back in town on Nov. 16 and that day a New Haven judge approved the arrest warrant charging him with 10 sex crimes, police said last week.

He was spotted on East Main Street “after continuous surveillance” and taken into custody that day, police said.

Lazzari appeared in Superior Court in New Haven and remains in custody in lieu of a \$1 million bond, court records show. He is scheduled to return to court Tuesday for an arraignment in the New Haven Judicial District, where the most serious cases are tried.

Zach Murdock can be reached at zmurdock@courant.com.

Police: 2 injured in weekend shootings

By Christine Dempsey and Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

Two men survived being shot in Hartford over the weekend, one in the south part of the city, the other in the north, police said.

The first shooting happened early Saturday in the area of 768 Maple Ave., they said. Police received a 2 a.m. ShotSpotter alert, and when officers arrived, they found evidence of gunfire, but no victim.

Moments later, a man in his 40s with multiple gunshot wounds turned up at an area hospital, police said. Police did not say how

he is doing.

Another man was shot early Sunday in the northern part of the city at a rental venue of the West Indian Social Club, police said.

Officers were patrolling near the club at 3340 Main St. just before 1 a.m. when someone came out and told them there had been gunshots inside, Lt. Aaron Boisvert reported.

Officers ran in and evacuated the rental venue that’s behind the club, but didn’t find the victim. Instead, shortly afterward a man in his 20s arrived at a city hospital for treatment of a gunshot wound.

A representative of the West Indian Social Club said Sunday that the facility had been leased by the West Indian American Center, operated by Stewart Blueland LLC. It is directly behind the club itself, but is owned by the club.

“Stewart Blueland and the promoters who rent the venue are not affiliated with the West Indian Social Club of Hartford,” Marketing Director Shauna Whitter said in an email. “The West Indian Social Club was closed at the time of the alleged shooting. No patron or member of the West Indian Social Club was involved.”

The club was the scene of several attacks years ago. A man was shot in December 2014, four people were stabbed in a melee in April 2012, and a 19-year-old man was shot dead on the dance floor in 2006.

The police department’s Major Crimes and Crime Scene divisions are investigating both shootings. Anyone with information about either one is asked to call the police tip line at 860-722-8477 (TIPS).

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com. Don Stacom may be reached at dstacom@courant.com.

New Haven cop arrested on patronizing prostitute charge

A New Haven officer has been arrested on a charge of patronizing a prostitute, police said.

Officer Christopher Troche turned himself in for arrest Sunday, they said. His bail was set at \$25,000; it wasn’t clear early Monday if he posted bond.

According to police, the arrest follows a criminal investigation that started April 5 when a woman approached a patrol officer

and reported “unwanted contact.” The officer took the report, and members of the department’s Internal Affairs Division were alerted.

Investigators obtained a warrant, and Troche was arrested.

Troche, a patrol officer, was placed on administrative leave the day the complaint was made, police said.

He has been with the department more than three years, having been hired

Sept. 17, 2018.

It isn’t clear why the charge didn’t match the allegation; police said they are limited in what details they can release because the arrest warrant is sealed.

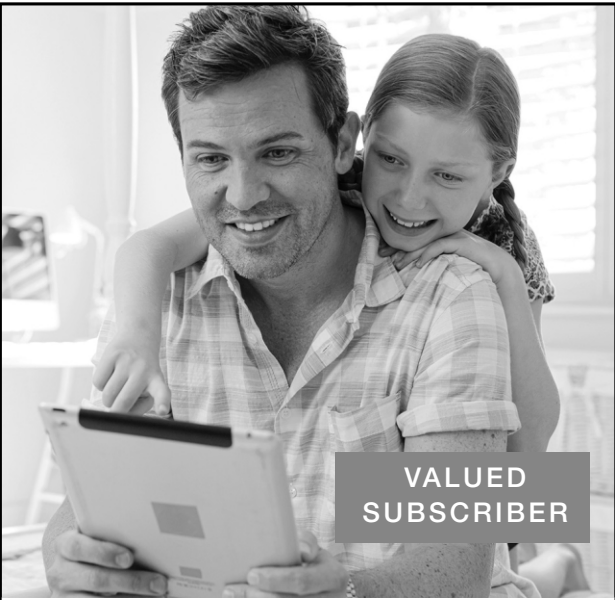
Officer Scott Shumway, the department’s public information officer, said in a news release that the department handled the complaint professionally.

“The New Haven Police Department takes all complaints on officers that violate the public’s trust seriously. We work extremely hard to be transparent to the community and offer many

ways for citizens to make complaints against officers. It was extremely important to this investigation that the victim trusted that the New Haven Police Department would take the complaint serious and fully investigate regardless of the nature and immigration status,” Shumway said.

“I commend the officer who took the complaint for the professionalism displayed, as well as the professionalism and integrity of the Internal Affairs Division,” he said.

— Christine Dempsey



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Property of the Week
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Hartford Courant



PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Sophie Mary Paulauskas (21-00873)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated November 17, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Darrell A. Paulauskas, 51 Beeneey Road, New Hartford, CT 06057
11/23/21 7088908

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Patricia A. Lenihan, AKA Patricia Ann Lenihan (21-0682)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated November 15, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Rosemary L. Nolin, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Mary Louise Lenihan
C/O Kenneth Joseph Shea, Anderson, Reynolds & Lynch, PC., One Liberty Square, Suite 208, New Britain, CT 06051
11/23/21 7090200

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Teresa K. Butler, Late of Essex, AKA Theresa K. Butler, AKA Teresa A. Butler, AKA Teresa Butler, AKA Theresa Butler (21-0674)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated November 15, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Marge B. Calltharp, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Katherine L. Butler
c/o BRUCE A. FONTANELLA, LAW OFFICES OF BRUCE A. FONTANELLA, 107 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, MERIDEN, CT 06450
11/23/21 7090265

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Notice of Decision
November 16, 2021 - Zoning Board of Appeals

The Essex Zoning Board of Appeals conducted their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday November 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Essex Town Hall, Meeting Room A and also public access via online through Zoom. The following decision was rendered:

Variance Application No. 21-43 on behalf of Jonathan and Michele Carlisle, 39A River Road, Essex, CT. Assessor's Map 10 Lot 19, RU District, requesting variances to sections 40D, 40E, and 40N, of the zoning regulations to construct a patio to be located to the property line and retaining wall where 10 feet is required. APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,
Ward Feirer, Vice Chair
11/23/2021 7088816

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MAUREEN MARCHESE AHEARN, late of Portland (21-00220)

The Hon. Jennifer L. Berkenstock, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Region #14 Probate Court, by decree dated November 15, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Debra C. Daniels, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
MATTHEW FRANK RUBANO, LAW OFFICE OF MATTHEW F. RUBANO LLC, 142 BOSTON POST ROAD, MADISON, CT 06443
11/23/21 7090199

TOWN OF CROMWELL
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF DECISION

At its regular meeting on November 16, 2021 the Town of Cromwell Planning and Zoning Commission met and took the following action:

1. Voted to approve with conditions Application #21-34: Request for Site Plan Modification at 70 Commerce Drive to allow for construction of only one building at 70 Commerce Drive. Simoniz USA, Inc is the Applicant and 70 Commerce Drive LLC is the Owner.

Alice Kelly
Chairman

Dated in Cromwell, Connecticut this the 17th day November of 2021.
11/23/21 7088437

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF William W. Prout Jr. (21-0704)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated November 12, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Rosemary L. Nolin, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Ashley Prout McAvey
C/O Peter Hunt Charbonnier, Peter H Charbonnier, Esq., LLC, 97 Main St. Chester, CT 06412
11/23/21 7089294

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF William H. Grover, Late of Centerbrook (21-0708)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated November 15, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Marge B. Calltharp, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Amy E. Grover
c/o WILLIAM CAMPBELL HUDSON, HUDSON KILBY AND MCCAULEY, LLC, 10 BOKUM ROAD, PO. BOX 398, ESSEX, CT 06426
11/23/21 7090207

NOTICE

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:

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294 Victoria Jones House goods
11A Adrian Cotto House goods
683 Dasia Artis House goods
376 Justin Walicki House goods
336 Luis Arnaiz House goods
272 Robert Hopkins House goods
183 Wayne Vonhardenberg House goods

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage-treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

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Film interviews a reminder to be ‘authentic’

Joaquin Phoenix questions real kids in ‘C’mon C’mon’

By Jake Coyle
Associated Press

In Mike Mills’ “C’mon C’mon,” Joaquin Phoenix plays a New York-based radio journalist who, throughout the movie, records interviews with real kids about their lives, asking them questions like, “What scares you?” and “What makes you happy?”

During the film’s making, Mills would schedule the interviews sporadically, often at the end of a day of shooting.

“It was a constant reminder of what being genuine was in front of the camera, to really be authentic,” Phoenix says. “They just were.”

“It kind of changed the chemistry all the way through,” says Mills. “All films should have to do that.”

Moments of documentary make cameos in “C’mon C’mon,” but the entire film pulses with something tenderly close to real life. The performances are loose and often improvised. The story, of an uncle (Phoenix) thrust into parenting his sister’s 9-year-old son (Woody Norman), was inspired by Mills’ relationship with his own child, Hopper.

“I always tell Hopper that a human being is huge,” says Mills, who’s married to filmmaker Miranda July. “All the possibilities and contradictions are enormous. A film about human beings, if you’re lucky, you’re going to get, like, a sliver.”

The black-and-white “C’mon C’mon,” now in theaters, may be the rare film to do a touch better than that. Since its launch



Actors Joaquin Phoenix, center left, and Woody Norman in Mike Mills’ film “C’mon C’mon,” now in theaters. **A24 FILMS**

earlier this year at the Telluride and New York Film festivals, “C’mon C’mon” has been received as an uncommonly sweet, open-hearted and genuine film, a shaggy portrait of profound adult-child connection.

The film was shot in January 2020 just before the pandemic began and edited throughout it. In the interim, Phoenix became a father. Last year, he and Rooney Mara had a boy, River, named after Phoenix’s late brother.

“It was like every phase of life was compounded into a few short months,” says Phoenix, smiling. “Life and death. Welcome to the experience!”

Asked if Phoenix began “C’mon C’mon” knowing that fatherhood was coming, he replies, “I don’t know. Do the math, man” — before relenting that he did

know. But Phoenix, who has always been disinclined to draw straight lines between art and life, cautions it was only an entry point.

“When I think about it in relationship to my kid and my experience, I go ‘Ugh.’ This is so its own thing. I don’t want to get into that game of thinking about my life. Was I? I’m sure subconsciously,” Phoenix says. “I think it’s beautiful when you are inspired by things in your life, but it’s also somewhat disgusting at times.”

For Mills, the writer-director of “Beginners” and “20th Century Woman,” family has been a regular reservoir. “Beginners,” with Christopher Plummer, was based on his father, and Annette Bening’s matriarch in “20th Century Woman” was inspired by his mother. But he’s also hesitant to be too straightforward about it.

“Family” sounds too normative to him. He thinks of his subject as “primary relationships.”

“I do feel like the people that show up in your life in a really big way are your cosmos,” says Mills. “Everything’s there. It’s ‘Game of Thrones’ and ‘Spider-Man’ and the comedy all thrown together.”

“C’mon C’mon” may be built on autobiography, but Mills’ collaborative process turned it into something else, into its own thing.

For Norman, 12, the freedom of Mills’ filmmaking was new and transformative.

“I’ve worked on films that have been very much, ‘It has to be in the script, and you can’t change anything,’” says Norman. “It being loose, I thought, let my creativity flow. To me, the film is very charming in that

way because you can tell that everything is real.”

In the film, Norman’s character, Jesse, is full of curiosities and eccentricities that go beyond the usual views of childhood in film. Like Jesse, Norman wants to be taken seriously for all he’s capable of.

“I don’t want to be seen as a child actor,” Norman says. “I want to be seen as an actor who is a child.”

Phoenix also began as a child actor, an experience he thinks back fondly on. He believes he was then a fully instinctual actor, a mindset he tries to recapture. For Phoenix, it was moving watching Norman go through something similar in the borderless creative space of “C’mon C’mon.”

“Somewhere near the end, he said with no irony, ‘I’ve been carrying you this whole picture.’ And I think

we all agreed with that,” says Phoenix.

“C’mon C’mon” follows a diametrically opposite film for Phoenix in 2019’s “Joker.” Mills’ film wasn’t an antidote to anything, Phoenix says, but he did slide into a different dynamic acting opposite Norman.

“Oftentimes if you’re a protagonist in a film, at least with the kind of actor I am, I feel this need to drive things, to drive the scene,” says Phoenix. “It was very interesting to not be driving the scene and to be listening and reacting to what someone else was doing.”

That was also true of the interviews in the film. They took place around the country — New York, New Orleans, Chicago, Los Angeles — and with a wide spectrum of kids. The movie is dedicated to one, Devante Bryant, a New Orleans 9-year-old who was later killed in a shooting.

Phoenix, who has sometimes had a more tortured relationship to interviews, started by recording one with his own nephew. He went in concerned that it would feel intrusive or uncomfortable. But when he asked his nephew afterward how it felt, he replied, “That was amazing. You asked me things that you’ve never asked me before.”

“I’ve always had this strange somewhat adversarial relationship with the idea of an interview and being asked questions that are going to be recorded, just because of the nature of this thing,” says Phoenix. “We come to this watering hole, but we have different lives away from it. I really have this appreciation for what you do and how difficult it can be and how powerful it can be, and the beauty of being able to spark a conversation between people. At its best, it’s that.”

CELEBRITIES



BTS at the American Music Awards on Sunday in Los Angeles. **JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION**

BTS stamps its authority on AMAs

From news services

South Korean superstars BTS were crowned artist of the year at the American Music Awards on Sunday, brushing aside challenges from Taylor Swift, Drake and The Weeknd as they took home a total of three awards and teamed up with Coldplay for a raucous “My Universe” and closed the show with “Butter.”

“Seven boys from Korea, united by love for music, met the love and support from all the armies all over the world,” said BTS’ RM after the group won artist of the year for the first time. “This whole thing is a miracle. Seriously, we would never take this for granted.”

The band was also named favorite pop duo or group and got the favorite pop song award for “Butter.”

The fan-voted awards show celebrated the best popular music with a mix of live and taped performances.

An earlier scheduled performance of “Butter” by BTS and Megan Thee Stallion was scrapped after the rapper cited personal reasons for dropping out Saturday. She turned out to be a big winner: named favorite female

hip-hop artist, her “Good News” winning for favorite hip-hop album and her “Body” was crowned favorite trending song.

Olivia Rodrigo came into the night with a leading seven nominations but only took home the crown for favorite new artist of the year. Rodrigo lost favorite pop album to Taylor Swift’s “evermore.” Swift also won for favorite female pop artist, giving her a career total of 34, the record for the most awarded artist in the show’s history.

Becky G won for favorite female Latin artist. Machine Gun Kelly grabbed the favorite rock artist award.

Bieber urged to cancel FI show: Pop star Justin Bieber is facing growing calls to cancel his concert in Saudi Arabia next month as the fiancée of slain Saudi critic Jamal Khashoggi joined a chorus of voices on Sunday urging him not to perform at the kingdom’s Formula One race. In an open letter published by The Washington Post, Hatice Cengiz urged the Canadian megastar to cancel his Dec. 5 performance in Jiddah to “send a powerful message to the world that your name and talent will not be

used to restore the reputation of a regime that kills its critics.”

Bieber’s concert is the most headline-grabbing performance scheduled, though other FI concert performers include rapper A\$AP Rocky, DJs David Guetta and Tiesto, and singer Jason Derulo.

Musician Hinsche dies: Billy Hinsche, 70, a singer-songwriter and musician in a 1960s pop band with Dino Martin Jr. and Desi Arnaz Jr. who later recorded and toured for decades with the Beach Boys, has died. Hinsche died Saturday of cancer, Lucie Arnaz, a longtime friend and brother of Desi Arnaz Jr., said in an Instagram post. According to his website, Hinsche collaborated with Warren Zevon, Joan Jett, America and many other artists over his lengthy career.

Nov. 23 birthdays: Actor Franco Nero is 80. Writer Bruce Vilanch is 73. Singer Bruce Hornsby is 67. Actor John Henton is 61. TV host Robin Roberts is 61. Actor Salli Richardson is 54. Actor Oded Fehr is 51. Actor Page Kennedy is 45. Actor Lucas Grabeel is 37. TV personality Nicole “Snooki” Polizzi is 34. Singer Miley Cyrus is 29.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Emotional affair strains a long marriage

Dear Amy: My husband of 50 years has had an “emotional affair” for a year with an old flame from college.

They have exchanged very intimate emails and texts, which I discovered by accident. When I confronted him, he denied that it is an affair, but just two old classmates exchanging messages.

When I confronted him about the intimate nature of these emails, he told me that he only wrote those things to make her feel good.

In one email, he told her that he didn’t marry me for love but to have a family, and that she is his soulmate.

Of course, I am devastated. The things he wrote to her have wounded me.

He reassured me that he loves me and that he doesn’t want a divorce.

We have two adult children and grandchildren. He agreed to stop the affair but didn’t confirm to me that he has done so.

The thing that bothers me the most is that he has never apologized to me. He has never owned his actions. He behaves like nothing happened.

Should I bring my concerns to him?

I don’t want a divorce but don’t want to be his second woman either.

— *Hurt and Betrayed*

Dear Hurt: Of course your husband doesn’t want to discuss this with you! Once he had been found out, his preferred reaction was to put his fingers in his ears and say, “La-la-la-la — I can’t hear you.”

Talking about this episode would be extremely uncomfortable

for both of you — and it is human nature to avoid this discomfort.

I agree that he needs to “own” this. Yes, you deserve an acknowledgment and apology, as well as proof that he has stopped this contact.

State your case, share your feelings, tell him what you need from him, and invite him to have the sort of intimate conversation you know he is capable of having.

Dear Amy: The conversation about adults keeping comfort objects prompted me to write.

I am a senior ranking soldier who recently returned from a deployment with a new “friend” in tow!

When I first arrived in theater, my predecessor handed off a Beanie Baby (cat) which he had received as a morale booster at the beginning of his deployment.

I kept it on my desk as a cheerful presence while I worked incredibly long, stressful days.

Within two weeks of arriving in theater, the pandemic hit and presented a real and present threat to the mission.

We had to take drastic measures to reduce forces while keeping the mission going.

Within three months, I was nearly broken as a result of the overwhelming workload. I was in desperate need of relief.

Suddenly, I found myself reaching for that cat and resting it in my lap.

I can’t begin to describe the immediate impact it had on my sanity and emotional well-being.

In addition to the laugh-

ter it brought when others asked, “Is that a cat on your desk?” it also provided comfort.

I saw me through some of my worst moments. It looked on without judgment and maintained peace in a world of chaos. It served an important role. It became a real friend.

Since arriving home, I’ve taken that stuffed cat with me on multiple road trips and hikes. I still hold it when I’m in need of comfort. I will definitely be taking it with me on my next deployment.

— *Unashamed Soldier*

Dear Unashamed: Wait. I’ve got something in my eye.

Remember the lesson from the peerless book, “The Velveteen Rabbit”?

This is how beloved objects become “real.”

Dear Amy: I loathed your dangerous response to “Stuck,” who was torn between inviting non-vaccinated family members and a “paranoid” family member.

No vaccinated person should be sharing space with unvaccinated people. Period.

— *Upset*

Dear Upset: Each of us has the responsibility to assess our own risks, based on our own vaccination status — and information provided by the CDC.

For many families, using a rapid home antigen test right before gathering might be the best answer.

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Black News Channel finding its audience

Network advocates but isn't partisan, says chief executive

By Stephen Battaglio
Los Angeles Times

Like the other cable news networks, Black News Channel reported on Gabby Petito, the 22-year-old woman who went missing in September and was found dead later that month.

But the reporting was supplemented with discussions about the obsessive coverage that surrounded the white blond Petito's story and how missing women of color are largely ignored by the media. BNC regularly reports on missing Black women and devotes a lengthy segment to their plight each week on its legal program "Making the Case," hosted by attorney and former judge Yodit Tewolde.

The nascent Tallahassee, Florida-based channel is the only full-time national TV news channel dedicated to serving Black viewers. BNC is available in more than 50 million pay TV homes, up from 2.5 million when it launched in February 2020, and is on most major carriers including DirecTV, Spectrum and Cox. Next year BNC also will offer its programming as a direct-to-consumer online subscription service.

BNC is attempting to make inroads as cable TV news audiences are shrinking and technology has lowered the barrier of entry for video news startups, such as the Black Star Network, a streaming channel recently launched by journalist and commentator Roland Martin.

Launching a 24/7 news channel is daunting. The Qatar-based Al Jazeera

tried a U.S. version of its channel but pulled the plug after three years. Nexstar Media Group launched NewsNation in September 2020 and has struggled to find an audience.

BNC sees an opening, however, as a recent study by Nielsen shows 58% of Black audiences say they do not see enough representation of themselves on TV, despite their value to advertisers.

BNC was co-founded by former Oklahoma Republican congressman J.C. Watts and broadcast executive Bob Brillante and launched with the backing of Shad Khan, owner of the NFL's Jacksonville Jaguars.

Over the past year, BNC has undergone a makeover led by Princell Hair, who was the first Black executive to lead CNN's U.S. operations. He joined in July 2020, replacing Brillante as chief executive.

The channel started with 55 employees. Hair built the staff up to 350 people and developed more personality-driven programs, which tend to draw the largest audiences for cable news networks.

While BNC advocates for Black people and causes, Hair said he is not out to create a partisan political channel.

"The mainstream networks have always looked at the Black audience as a monolithic audience," Hair said. "A majority of Black Americans go to church every Sunday. Many of them have very conservative values. Our goal is to present as many voices as we can and allow the audience to make up their minds."

BNC has confronted some challenges. The company is facing a gender discrimination suit filed in August from a group of

female employees who say they were being paid less than their male counterparts and operated in a "hostile work environment" where they were told they were "insufficiently feminine."

A BNC representative said the claims were investigated by an outside law firm, and the company believes they are baseless.

Hair has bolstered BNC's talent roster, signing veteran hosts such as Sharon Reed, an outspoken local news anchor in Atlanta, and the Los Angeles-based Mike Hill, who joined from Fox Sports to helm "Start Your Day," a breezy yet substantive morning show.

Hair also landed as prime-time hosts author and New York Times columnist Charles Blow and Mark Lamont Hill, a Temple University professor who learned TV by being a liberal foil for conservative stalwart Bill O'Reilly on Fox News.

In September, Hair brought on Aisha Mills, a Democratic political strategist whose pushback at conservative commentator Eric Bolling during a BBC segment last year led him to storm out of his camera shot.

Established TV news organizations have made an effort to improve diversity, especially after the 2020 death of George Floyd heightened the discussion of long-standing issues in the Black community such as social justice, law enforcement and racism. But that doesn't mean issues facing the Black community are always addressed.

"It's deceptive because you see there are a lot of people on the air who are African American," said media strategist and



Attorney and former judge Yodit Tewolde spotlights missing women of color each week on her Black News Channel program "Making the Case." DAVID LIVINGSTON/GETTY 2019

political commentator Lauren Victoria Burke. "The problem is there are a lot of conversations that are not happening on those channels that are happening on BNC and '#RolandMartinUnfiltered' on a deeper level."

BNC's most prominent hosts have progressive bona fides. When they are critical of President Joe Biden, it's almost always for not delivering on his campaign promises to the Black community.

Hair wants the network to highlight achievements as well as the challenges facing BNC's target audience. "We feature Black and brown people doing

things in their community that you won't necessarily see on the mainstream networks," he said.

BNC executives say they are mindful of the shift to digital platforms. The network already has a free streaming channel, BNC GO. It also has done outreach to journalism programs at historically black colleges and universities, offering internships and raising awareness of BNC among younger consumers who tend to watch online.

Martin also said Black media ownership matters to his audience. "One of my fears I've always had is that 50 years from now African

Americans will be asking someone else to tell their stories," he said.

While BNC is not Black-owned, Hair believes the network's commitment to the Black community will be apparent to viewers.

"Ownership is meaningful, and Shad Khan is a person of color who understands the experience and challenges that minorities face in the U.S. and around the world," Hair said. "His belief in our mission and support has allowed us to hire more than 250 Black journalists and production personnel over the last year, which I'm confident stands as an all-time high for any network."

TV Q&A

Why was FX on Hulu series 'Y: The Last Man' canceled?

By Rich Heldenfels
Tribune News Service

Q: I was shocked to hear that the FX on Hulu series "Y: The Last Man" was abruptly canceled! What happened? Is there hope another streaming channel will pick this up?

A: The drama fell prey to economics, according to the Hollywood Reporter. Long delayed by off-camera changes and COVID-19, the show had reached a point where it would have to pick up the contract options for the cast while not knowing if, in fact, the show would keep going. "Ultimately, FX brass declined to pay \$3 million to further extend options," said the publication. But the makers of the show have held out hope that someone else will pick it up, and the Hollywood Reporter noted that HBO Max might be a good fit because of corporate ties between the show and the streamer. Showrunner Eliza Clark said, "It is the most collaborative, creatively fulfilling and beautiful thing I have ever been a part of. We don't want it to end."

Q: Can you tell me the name of the song and the composer for the lead-in to Marvel movies and TV programs? It sounds like a John Williams composition.

A: It is not. What is simply known as the Marvel fanfare is reportedly by veteran composer Michael Giacchino, who has a long resume of work in TV and movies, including such productions as "Lost," "Up," "Rogue One" and "JoJo Rabbit." An earlier version of the fanfare was by Brian Tyler.

Q: Ed Asner was the star of a made-for-TV



Ben Schnetzer as Yorkic in "Y: The Last Man." FX officials have canceled the drama. RAFFY WINTERFELD/FX

movie in the 1970s or '80s where he played an alcoholic and had a son who was also an alcoholic. Can you tell me the name of this movie and the actor who played Asner's son?

A: You are probably remembering "Vital Signs" from 1986. Asner played an alcoholic doctor with a doctor son who had a drug problem. The son was played by Gary Cole, who lately has been appearing on "NCIS" as Alden Parker, the replacement for Leroy Jethro Gibbs (Mark Harmon).

Q: I enjoyed "Last Tango in Halifax" immensely. Can you tell me if it will be coming back?

A: The series starring Derek Jacobi and Anne Reid ended in 2020.

Q: I read recently that actor Sam Rockwell celebrated his 53rd birthday. I am still a fan of the B Westerns of my youth and wondered if Sam

Rockwell is related to the character actor Jack Rockwell, who appeared in so many of those old movies.

A: Sam Rockwell, an Oscar winner for his performance in "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," does have an acting bloodline as the son of actors Pete Rockwell and Penny Hess. But I have not connected them to Jack Rockwell, the actor you recalled.

Q: Is there any hope of a revival of "Timeless" or will someone be streaming the episodes?

A: I do not know of any plans for a revival of the time travel drama. You can find the old episodes streaming on Hulu, including the series finale.

Do you have a question or comment about entertainment past, present and future? Write to Rich Heldenfels, P.O. Box 417, Mogadore, OH 44260, or brenfels@gmail.com. Letters may be edited.

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): Patience might be particularly beneficial right now. By getting in line behind everyone else, you could earn the respect of an authority figure. Working together may teach you valuable lessons about conserving your strength.

Taurus (April 20-May 20):Not being able to do the things you want can be distressing. Rather than dwelling on limitations, however, give thanks for what you already have. Fill your mind with positive feelings. A friend with good connections might help you get something you really wanted.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): A current alliance may be draining, especially if you're having to do both jobs at once! Unless they're willing to accept more responsibility, it may be time to go solo. Get rid of dead weight. It may even be possible to pursue a job in a new field that makes you feel more successful and fulfilled.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): This is a good time to be your own best friend. If you have questions about what to do today, turn your attention inward and let your finely-tuned intuition sense the best path to follow. Every time you trust your inner guidance, you're honing its sensitivity and becoming stronger.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):Practice moderation when it comes to drink right now. You'll need to be energized to deal with any challenges, and it seems some domestic disturbances may be in store. Standing up to a demanding family member could transform your relationship. Rely on your bravery.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Partying might put you in a bind today! There is likely still work to be done. When it comes to celebrating, try to find a good stopping point so you can shift your attention back to your obligations. Don't be afraid to be direct with anyone who hasn't been pulling their weight.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Hiding won't solve anything. You might be facing a difficult matter. Push yourself to face it. If you've had a tough time getting a job, consider updating your skills. Learn what the market expects from people who have your dream job - the answer might astonish you!

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): As comfortable as your current situation may be, there might be some glaring reasons why you can't remain there. It could be time for you to venture into greener pastures. World events may have made you wary of unfamiliar situations. Build up your confidence again.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):Material security won't help you right now. If you must take a pay cut for the sake of a job that gives you more free time to pursue your passions, consider doing it. When you listen to your heart, every facet of your life can improve. Friends should be relieved to see you happy again!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):Your self-image could cause you to miss some important signals from others. Instead of dedicating all your energy to creating a great impression, simply ask if there's anything you can do to relieve their pain. Their answer may surprise you.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A big secret may come to light now, changing the way you view friendship. Be more compassionate to someone who you discover has been struggling with a health condition. You might be such an independent person that you have trouble imagining how limiting health issues can be. Find a way to help this person.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You might be tired of explaining your interests to friends. Distance yourself if they are unable to support you. Individuals who enjoy your favorite subjects can bring you the sense of belonging you've been missing out on. Don't be afraid to show how unique you really are!

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Nov. 23, 1889, the first jukebox made its debut in San Francisco.

In 1936, Life, the photo-journalism magazine created by Henry R. Luce, was first published.

In 1971, the People's Republic of China was seated in the U.N. Security Council.

In 1980, some 2,600 people were killed by a series of earthquakes that devastated southern Italy.

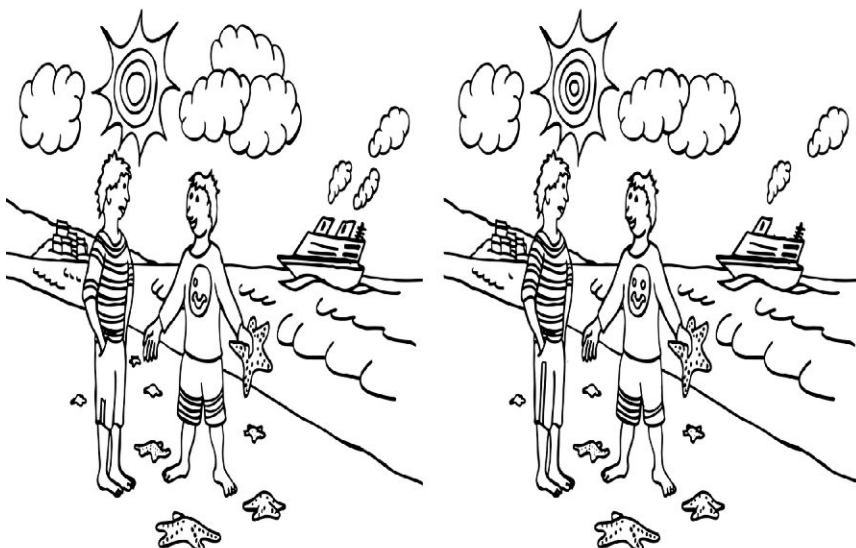
In 1992, country music star Roy Acuff died at age 89.

In 2006, former KGB spy Alexander Litvinenko died from radiation poisoning

after making a deathbed statement blaming Vladimir Putin.

In 2008, the government unveiled a bold plan to rescue Citigroup, injecting a fresh \$20 billion into the troubled firm.

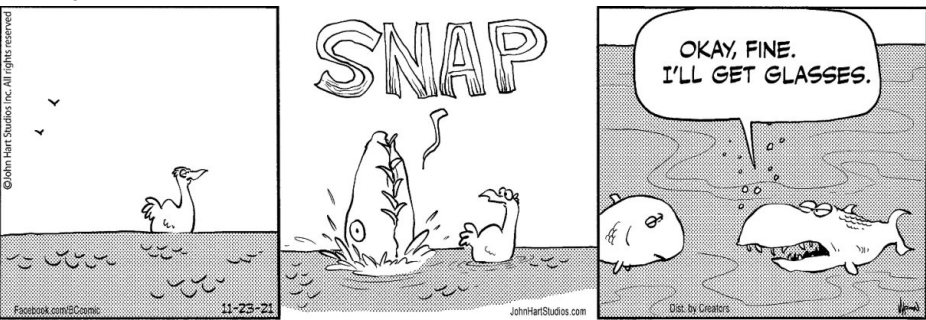
In 2016, President-elect Donald Trump chose charter school advocate Betsy DeVos to lead the Department of Education.



For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



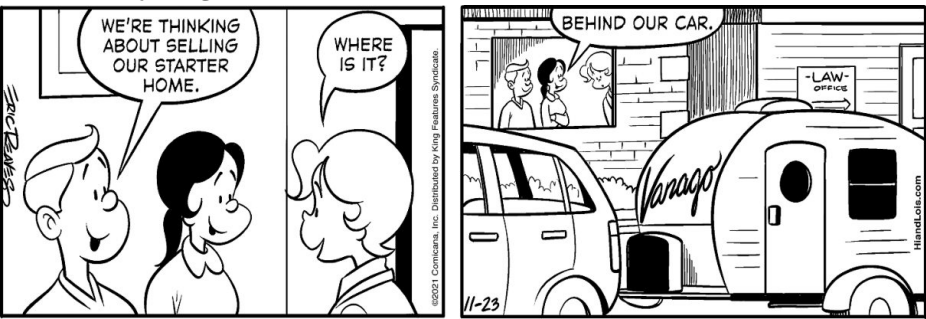
B.C. By Hart



Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne



Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



Curtis By Ray Billingsley



Pickles By Brian Crane



Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

1 D.C. insider

4 Anxious feeling

9 "Silent Night" words before calm and bright

14 Actress Gardner

15 More rational

16 Africa's Sierra

17 "Star Wars" sequel trilogy heroine

18 Spicy condiment

20 Pay off illicitly

22 How a scary-movie watcher might recoil

23 Astronaut's milieu

26 Deserved, as recognition

27 Keep separate from the rest

28 Restaurant chain with an owl logo

31 Horne of jazz

32 In the manner of

34 Oktober endings

35 Lawn areas lacking grass

39 Perth __, NJ

42 LBJ's boy beagle

43 Big brass

47 Greets with guffaws

50 Features of some cruise ships

52 Heavy weight

53 NYC's World Financial Center architect

55 Working together as one

58 '90s candidate __ Perot

59 Coins in one's pocket ... and what literally

happens in each set of circles

62 When doubled, a Latin dance

63 Fix in the crosshairs

64 Knighted composer Edward

65 Showy pond fish

66 Stacks like Tupperware

67 Wed on the sly

68 Vicious with a bass

6 Econ. measure

7 Old photo hue

8 Battlefield furrow

9 "What's more ..."

10 Norman who created Archie and Edith Bunker

11 French pilgrimage site

12 Trying a case, say

13 Prophetic woman

19 Prefix with stat

21 Overdo, as a point

24 Twinkler

25 Soccer standout

29 Frequently, to a bard

30 More irritable

33 Fireplace grate buildup

36 Shakespearean cries

37 12-point type

38 Actor Epps

39 Craftsperson

40 Marshmallowy treat

41 Little chickens

44 Disengages the bolt for, as a door

45 Russian ballet company

46 "Let me reiterate ..."

48 "High Voltage" band

49 Far from a guffaw

51 Round figure

54 Little

56 "I smell __!"

57 Ping-Pong supplies

60 Private aid prog.

61 Space between outfielders

Down

1 Partially cook, as rice

2 Employ excessively, as muscles

3 Overdo the flattery

4 Last word of Kansas' motto

5 Macduff rebuff

1 Partially cook, as rice

2 Employ excessively, as muscles

3 Overdo the flattery

4 Last word of Kansas' motto

5 Macduff rebuff

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

South dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ J 8 2
♥ K Q 9
♦ K Q 10 3
♣ K J 9

WEST

♠ 5 3
♥ A 10 6 3
♦ 8 4
♣ 10 8 5 4 2

EAST

♠ A 4
♥ J 7 5 4 2
♦ 9 7 6 2
♣ A 6

SOUTH

♠ K Q 10 9 7 6
♥ 8
♦ A J 5
♣ Q 7 3

The bidding:

South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♦ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

Opening lead — four of clubs.

It takes two to tango

Bridge is a partnership game that reaches its highest level when two players operate on precisely the same wavelength during the bidding or play to achieve their optimal result.

Take this case where East-West collaborated perfectly to defeat four spades.

West led the four of clubs to East's ace, and East then had to decide the best course for the defense.

He reasoned that South was almost certain to hold a long, strong spade suit and at least one of the red aces for his opening bid.

Even if West held a red ace, this left the defense with only three potential winners, all of them aces. Another trick would have to be found.

East concluded that his best chance lay in trying to obtain a club ruff, a plan that required South to hold at least three clubs. Accordingly, East returned the six of clubs at trick two.

South in the meantime did his best to disguise his actual holding by following

with the seven to the first club lead and the queen to the second. It was now West's turn to do his part for the cause, and he came through with flying colors.

Following his partner's defense, which strongly suggested that he had started with a doubleton club, West dropped the ten on the queen, applying an unusual extension of the suit-preference signal. In this instance, he was transmitting the message that he held an entry in the higher-ranking side suit, hearts. (Had he held the ace of diamonds instead, he would have played the deuce on the second club.)

After overtaking the queen of clubs with the king, declarer led the jack of spades from dummy, trying to look like a man taking a finesse against the queen, but East didn't take the bait.

He rose with the ace and led a heart to his partner's ace, and the ensuing club ruff put the final touch on a well-defended hand.

Tomorrow: The art of deception.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TALSN

ANGDL

LSUETS

JNCETI

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Get the free JUST JUMBLE app - Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TWIRL SINGE DIVERT SHADOW

Answer: The girl's story about where her mom bought her the candy was — SHORT AND SWEET

TODAY'S SUDOKU

								9
	1			7	8			
2	6		1				4	
1		6	9					
		2	8		4	9		
		8			2	6		7
	3				9		8	1
			6	4			5	
5								

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

1	9	7	4	8	2	3	6	5
2	8	6	5	7	3	4	1	9
4	3	5	6	9	1	2	8	7
5	2	1	7	6	4	8	9	3
7	6	9	1	3	8	5	2	4
8	4	3	2	5	9	1	7	6
3	1	2	9	4	7	6	5	8
6	7	8	3	2	5	9	4	1
9	5	4	8	1	6	7	3	2

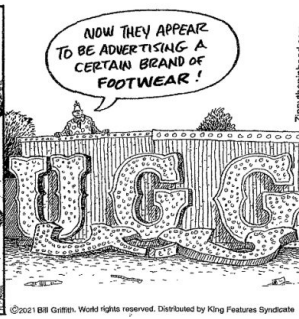
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

D	E	A	D	M	I	L	E	S	S	S	R	S
U	G	L	I	O	M	A	N	I	O	W	I	E
H	O	T	S	P	R	I	N	G	S	T	E	N
			C	L	A	N	G		C	R	E	S
A	N	I	M	U	S		E	N	R	O	U	T
L	A	R	A	M	S		A	I	R	E	D	
O	D	I	N		S	E	P	T	A		R	H
H	I	S		N	E	W	D	E	A	L		E
A	A	H		O	P	E	D	S		H	A	R
			S	A	T	E	D		S	C	A	M
R	E	X	R	E	E	D		W	A	T	S	O
C	U	T	I	E		I	M	A	S			
A	L	T	O		P	O	T	A	T	O	H	E
T	E	E	M		B	A	T	C	H		O	R
E	R	R	S		A	R	O	S	E		P	A

ZIPPY



"LETTERS OF TRANSIT"




Bill Griffith



Hartford Courant

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SPORTS

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COVID-19 GUIDELINES

CDPH: Vaccinated athletes can play maskless after Dec. 23

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

The Connecticut Department of Public Health issued guidelines for winter interscholastic and youth sports Monday, stating that vaccinated athletes do not have to wear masks while playing sports after Dec. 23 and urging athletic departments to host vaccination clinics.

Last winter's sports season started late, on Feb. 1, and all participants had to wear masks, while

wrestling, a close contact sport, was not contested.

The winter sports season is scheduled to start next Monday with ice hockey, wrestling and girls basketball practices. Games for those sports begin Dec. 13. Boys basketball, boys swimming, gymnastics and indoor track practices start Dec. 2, and the first games and meets will be Dec. 16. There will be a full season, unlike last winter, and state championships are expected to be held.

The DPH stated it will continue to watch for any spikes in infections among athletes.

The guidelines stated: "DPH will continue to closely monitor the experience of youth sports organizations with the implementation of more relaxed masking rules during competitions taking place over the holiday recess and will make any necessary revisions to this guidance if and when it is

Turn to COVID-19, Page 2



Newington's Lilliany Ferguson gets a shot off against Windsor in the CCC girls basketball championship last March. Vaccinated athletes can compete this winter season without masks after Dec. 23. **COURANT FILE**

GIANTS

NFC East road gets tougher as Eagles rise

By Pat Leonard
New York Daily News

The New York Giants spent big on free agents in the offseason to take advantage of a weak NFC East, but suddenly the division is no joke.

The Philadelphia Eagles (5-6) charged to the brink of a playoff spot with Sunday's win over the New Orleans Saints, the Birds' third win in four games.

They're now in ninth place in the NFC, nipping at the heels of three teams at 5-5: the Minnesota Vikings, Saints and San Francisco 49ers.

The first-place Dallas Cowboys (7-3) have a chance to bounce back quickly from Sunday's loss in Kansas City against the sorry Las Vegas Raiders on Thanksgiving Day.

And Washington (4-6) scratched out a second straight win at Carolina.

That put a ton of pressure on the Giants (3-6) to get a victory Monday night at Tampa Bay, with the red-hot Eagles coming to MetLife Stadium six days later. (The Giants-Bucs game wasn't over in time for this edition.)

"We're certainly excited about where this team's going," quarterback Daniel Jones said coming out of the bye week. "We feel like we've improved, but right now our focus is on this week and making sure we're prepared to play the Bucs and play our best football on Monday night."

The Giants entered Week 11 in last place in the division with a 3.8% chance of making the playoffs, per BetOnline.ag. That trailed Washington (5.9%), Philly (25%) and Dallas (99.9%).

Wide receiver Kenny Golladay said he believes the Giants are capable of making a postseason push.

"Yep," he said. "We've just got to keep stacking games on top of games and coming out with W's."

The problem is coach Joe Judge's team has almost no margin for error.

The Cowboys have a smooth road to an NFC East title thanks to their scorching hot start to the season.

The Giants are already 0-2 in the division. And having four division games in their final seven down the stretch no longer looks favorable.

Generously granting the Giants a .500 record in their final eight games would have them finishing at 7-10.

Judge refuses to talk playoffs

Turn to Giants, Page 2

BATTLE 4 ATLANTIS SOUTH CAROLINA 73, UCONN 57

No. 1 Gamecocks show Huskies who's top dog



South Carolina guard Destanni Henderson goes to the basket against UConn forward Olivia Nelson-Ododa in the Battle 4 Atlantis championship game Monday. **TIM AYLEN/AP**

Close game spiraled in the 4th quarter

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

PARADISE ISLAND, BAHAMAS — For three quarters of Monday's championship game of the inaugural Battle 4 Atlantis women's basketball tournament, UConn coach Geno Auriemma was actually pleased with what he saw from his No. 2 Huskies

against top-ranked South Carolina. It wasn't pretty, but the Huskies executed their game plan to Auriemma's liking and trailed by only three going into the fourth quarter.

And that's when things spiraled for the Huskies.

UConn couldn't handle the Gamecocks' uptick in defensive pressure and was outscored 16-3

to fall 73-57 in the tournament championship game in what is expected to be an early preview of a Women's Final Four or national title game.

In front of a crowd of 1,171, Auriemma's squad (3-1) was handed its first loss of the season, while the Gamecocks (6-0) have

Turn to UConn, Page 4

COMMENTARY

There's much to fix between now, March



Dom Amore

We've learned the hard way in recent years that UConn women's basketball players are human, the days of going years between losses, the era of endless 30-point blowouts is over.

Still, this was a shock to the system that reverberates in a state that follows the Huskies' every trend. Up 13 in the second quarter, on the blocks and ready to run away from South Carolina and reclaim the No.1 spot in the polls, as they have so often done in these No. 1 vs. No. 2 showdowns, UConn fell apart Monday in the Battle 4 Atlantis on ESPN, losing, 73-57.

No dreams were dashed, but in the idyllic Bahamas it was made clear that a long, cold winter must be endured before they are reached. The challenge came early this year.

The sequence that really stunned, driving the point home hard, began after Paige Bueckers' jumper tied the score at 40 with 8:03 left in the third quarter.

At the other end, South Carolina missed, but Aliyah Boston, a great player having a great game on a great stage, put in an offensive rebound. Inbounds pass No. 1, Zia Cooke stole it from Dorka Juhasz and scored. Inbounds pass No. 2, Destanni Henderson stole it from Juhasz and Cooke scored again.

Six points in 27 seconds, the ball never leaving the shadow of South Carolina's basket, presaging the fourth-quarter meltdown. For the first time in 20 years, UConn lost a game by double digits that they had once led by double digits.

"The combination of their defensive pressure and our inability to handle that pressure is basically the game," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said.

No arguing that. The Huskies, out of gas, turned it over 19 times in the game and were outscored 16-3 in the fourth quarter.

Turn to Amore, Page 4

Did you know?

Autumn leaves are smaller than the car or truck tire rolling over them, causing the tire's load and torque force to be unevenly applied between the leaf and the road. That fact reduces traction every time.

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

UConn football: Houston, Saturday, noon
Patriots: Titans, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Giants: Eagles, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Jets: at Texans, Sunday, 1 p.m.
UConn MBB: vs. Auburn (Battle 4 Atlantis, Bahamas), Wednesday, 2:30 p.m.; vs. TBA (Battle 4 Atlantis, Bahamas), Thursday, time TBA; vs. TBA (Battle 4 Atlantis, Bahamas), Friday, time TBA
UConn WBB: at Seton Hall, Dec. 3, 7 p.m.; Notre Dame (at Gampel), Dec. 5, noon; at Georgia Tech, Dec. 9, 7 p.m.
Celtics: Nets, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; at Spurs, Friday, 8:30 p.m.; at Raptors, Sunday, 6 p.m.
Knicks: Lakers, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; Suns, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Hawks, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
Nets: at Celtics, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; Suns, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Knicks, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
UConn hockey: Colgate, Saturday, 4 p.m.; at Merrimack, Dec. 3, 7 p.m.; Merrimack, Dec. 4, 3 p.m.
Bruins: at Sabres, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Rangers, Friday, 1 p.m.; Canucks, Sunday, 7 p.m.
Rangers: at Islanders, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; at Bruins, Friday, 1 p.m.; Islanders, Sunday, 6 p.m.
Wolf Pack: Springfield, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Springfield, Saturday, 2 p.m.; Springfield, Dec. 1, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO

BASKETBALL
2:30 p.m.: Maui Invitational Consolation Round. (Live) ESPN2
5 p.m.: Maui Invitational First Semifinal. (Live) ESPN
5 p.m.: Roman Legends Classic Consolation Round. (Live) ESPN2
6 p.m.: Buffalo at Stephen F. Austin State. (Live) CBSSN
7:30 p.m.: Roman Legends Classic Final. (Live) ESPN2
7:30 p.m.: Lakers at Knicks. (Live) TNT
8 p.m.: Kennesaw State at Wake Forest. (Live) ACC
8 p.m.: Women's College Troy at Missouri. (Live) SEC
8 p.m.: Maui Invitational Second Semifinal. (Live) ESPN
8:30 p.m.: Illinois State at St. Louis. (Live) CBSSN
9:30 p.m.: Hall of Fame Classic Final. (Live) ESPN2
10 p.m.: Gonzaga at UCLA. (Live) ESPN
10 p.m.: Denver Nuggets at Portland Trail Blazers. (Live) TNT

HOCKEY
7 p.m.: Women's Hockey Rivalry Series USA at Canada. (Live) NHL

SOCCER
8 p.m.: MLS Orlando City SC at Nashville SC. (Live) FS1
10:30 p.m.: MLS Real Salt Lake at Seattle Sounders FC. (Live) FS1

TENNIS
6 p.m.: WTT Chicago Smash vs. San Diego Aviators, Orange County Breakers vs. New York Empire. (Live) TENNIS

JETS

Saleh insists rebuild is different this time

By Dennis Waszak Jr.
Associated Press

NEW YORK — There are three words New York Jets fans have grown weary of hearing from the team's coaches and management: Patience. Process. Progress. To many, it's all just wash, rinse, repeat. Losing can harden even the most loyal of followers, who have grown calloused while waiting for another chance at a Super Bowl appearance. After all, 1969 is a long, long time ago. And this is a franchise that will likely miss the play-offs for the 11th straight season, the NFL's longest active drought. So when Robert Saleh talks about how things will flip in the Jets' favor someday soon, it's easy to brush off. But the coach believes this is truly different — and things will absolutely change for the better, even if that's tough to see at 2-8. "I respect the heck out of the urgency from the fans and the wanting to flip this thing, but in fairness, this is the first time this fanbase has experienced something like this," Saleh said Monday. "Usually, it has been a quick fix followed by a scramble." General manager Joe Doug-



Coach Robert Saleh is preaching patience with the 2-8 Jets, something fans have been hearing for years. ADAM HUNGER/AP

las has vowed to build success through the draft and free agency. And this is a rebuild in its infancy — even though the Jets went through one just four years ago when they went 5-11 and drafted Sam Darnold with similar hopes for the future.

That all backfired in a hurry. The personnel in the front office is different now, and so is much of that on the field. It was another total reset, and it starts with Douglas and Saleh, and goes to rookie quarterback Zach Wilson — and

on from there. "This is an actual plan," Saleh insisted. "I feel like Joe is doing a phenomenal job with a really, really concise plan on how to build from the ground up. And there's a lot of exciting pieces on this team that are hidden in these losses. But when you sit back and watch it from our perspective and (with) the combination of veterans and youth, it's definitely going in the right direction. "And eventually, while frustrating today, it's going to be awesome when this thing gets flipped." The players are singing a similar refrain. And while they don't accept a tough loss — filled with penalties, mistakes and missed opportunities — such as their 24-17 defeat against Miami on Sunday, they see positive signs. At least that's what they're hanging on to as the losses pile up. "Rome wasn't built in one day, and this thing isn't going to get turned around in one day," said right tackle Morgan Moses, before adding: "We have a lot of great players in this building." But sooner rather than later, they'll have to prove that on the field. Or Jets fans will be covering their ears — and eyes — again in a few years.

CELTICS 108, ROCKETS 90

Tatum's 30 points help give Houston 15th loss

By Ken Powtak
Associated Press

BOSTON — Jayson Tatum scored 30 points, Jaylen Brown had 19 in his return from missing eight games with an injury and the Boston Celtics coasted by Houston 108-90 on Monday night, sending the Rockets to their 15th straight loss. Dennis Schroder added 18 points for Boston, which has won three straight and eight of 11. Al Horford had 11 points and 11 rebounds. It was Tatum's fourth straight game with 30 or more points. Armoni Brooks had 17 points for Houston (1-16). No starter reached double-digit scoring. The Rockets' only win came at home against Oklahoma City in their second game. Starting center Robert Williams III also returned for Boston after being out the last three games with a sore left knee. He had 15 rebounds and two points. The Celtics (10-8) broke it open with a 17-0 run midway into the third quarter, holding the Rockets without a point for 6 minutes. Brown, sidelined with a right hamstring injury, brought the fans to their feet by scoring 10 straight points. He had a scoop shot in the lane after two free throws and capped his burst with consecutive 3s just 24 seconds apart, the first in transition from the top and the second on the left wing, to make it 72-50 with 6:43 left in the third. Boston led 86-63 after three quarters.



Celtics guard Jaylen Brown shoots over the Rockets' Jalen Green Monday in Boston. Brown returned after missing eight games with a hamstring injury. CHARLES KRUPA | AP

Tatum had 22 points in the opening half. The Rockets' Kevin Porter Jr. was sidelined for his third straight game with a bruised left thigh. Brown was on a minutes restriction, with Celtics coach Ime Udoka saying he'd play about half the game. Brown's first basket in 2 ½ weeks came on a jumper midway

into the first quarter after he missed his first three shots. He played 23 minutes. Celtics guard Josh Richardson missed the game with a non-COVID illness. It was billed as "80s Night" at TD Garden with music from that era played during timeouts along with video highlights from the old Boston Garden. The Celtics

welcomed back former player and coach M.L. Carr and former guard Gerald Henderson, whose steal in Game 2 of the 1984 NBA Finals helped Boston beat the Lakers en route to the championship. Also, the Celtics beat the Rockets for the 1981 and '86 NBA titles, and fittingly, like the '80s, the teams had some chip-chie play in the first half.

COVID-19

from Page 1

deemed necessary and appropriate for the protection of public health." CIAC executive director Glenn Lungarini could not comment on the guidelines until the CIAC sends their version to their member schools.

Mask guidelines

Masks will be required whenever the athletes aren't competing, as well as on bus trips. Unvaccinated athletes must wear masks while competing and all other times, and the DPH stated that unmasked athletes not fully vaccinated should not participate in indoor events "unless all other mitigation strategies can be reliably and consistently implemented." The guidance further states that club and team organizers are responsible for individuals adhering to mask guidelines, and if a local mandate requires mask usage in indoor facilities, athletic administrators must work with local authorities regarding regulation and compliance.

Quarantines

If a vaccinated athlete comes into contact with a known COVID-19 case, the athlete, if symptom-free, will not have to quarantine for 14 days, but will have to get tested five to seven days after exposure and will have to wear a mask while competing until the test result comes back negative. If the athlete is vaccinated and having symptoms, they must quarantine for 14 days, or 10 days with a

negative test on the eighth day, and wear a mask when around others until they have a negative test. Unvaccinated athletes with exposure to a COVID-19 case must quarantine for 14 days, or 10 days with a negative test on the eighth day.

Out of state competition

The DPH recommends that the unvaccinated athletes not travel out of state for competition, but vaccinated athletes are allowed to do so if they follow the CDC guidelines for travel.

Vaccine clinics

The DPH stated that athletic administrators should consider hosting vaccine clinics. There was a clinic at Dillon Stadium in Hartford last weekend during the CIAC boys and girls soccer championships, and many people, including Lungarini and Bulkeley High athletic director Diane Callis, got booster shots. The guidance said: "DPH advises that athletic program administrators can help protect their participant families by hosting vaccination events. DPH and the Connecticut State Department of Education have developed a useful vaccine toolkit (#Vax2SchoolCT) to assist with the planning and execution of vaccine clinics for students, staff, and their families in schools, however this toolkit can be similarly useful to athletic organizations if they are considering similar vaccination events at their facilities."

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.



Giants running back Saquon Barkley runs against the Buccaneers in the first half Monday night. He had missed the past four games with an ankle sprain. MARK LOMOGGIO / AP

Giants

from Page 1

and didn't use it as motivation for his team coming out of the Week 10 bye, he said. "No," he said, "all those other games are hypotheticals. To go ahead and start looking beyond things that don't exist, talking about hypotheticals — we've got enough real things coming at us in a week's time." What's coming Sunday is a surging Eagles team that ranks eighth in the NFL averaging 27 points per game. Coach Nick Sirianni's team has scored 30 or more points

three times in the last four weeks, including 44 against the Detroit Lions in Week 8 and 40 against the Saints this past Sunday. Philly quarterback Jalen Hurts has 21 touchdowns (13 passing, eight rushing) in 11 games. The Giants' Jones had 10 TDs (eight passing, two rushing) in nine games entering Monday. Time is running out for the Giants to turn around their season, and the NFC East isn't lying down like it did last year, when the Giants nearly won the division championship at 6-10. **Thomas returns from IR:** Left tackle Andrew Thomas (left ankle/right foot) was activated off

injured reserve to start Monday night's game at Tampa. He was one of five players added to the Giants' roster for the game against the defending Super Bowl champions. **Harris called up:** Edge Trent Harris was signed from the Giants' practice squad for the game. Tight end Chris Myarick and safety Steven Parker were elevated from the practice squad, and wide receiver/returner Pharoh Cooper was activated from the practice squad as a COVID-19 replacement. Safety Logan Ryan stayed on the reserve/COVID-19 list and missed a game for the first time in his two seasons as a Giant.

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Brooklyn	12	5	.706	—
New York	9	8	.529	3
Boston	9	8	.529	3
Philadelphia	9	8	.529	3
Toronto	8	10	.444	4½
SOUTHEAST	W	L	PCT	GB

Washington	11	5	.688	—
Miami	11	6	.647	½
Charlotte	10	8	.556	2
Atlanta	8	9	.471	3½
Orlando	4	13	.235	7
CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago	12	5	.706	—
Cleveland	9	8	.529	3
Milwaukee	9	8	.529	3
Indiana	7	11	.389	5½
Detroit	4	12	.250	7½

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Dallas	9	7	.563	—
Memphis	8	8	.500	1
San Antonio	4	11	.267	4½
New Orleans	3	15	.167	7
Houston	1	15	.063	8
NORTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB

Utah	11	5	.688	—
Denver	9	8	.529	2½
Portland	9	8	.529	2½
Minnesota	7	9	.438	4
Oklahoma City	6	10	.375	5
PACIFIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Golden State	15	2	.882	—
Phoenix	13	3	.813	1½
L.A. Clippers	10	7	.588	5
L.A. Lakers	9	9	.500	6½
Sacramento	6	11	.353	9

MONDAY'S RESULTS

Brooklyn at Cleveland, late
Charlotte at Washington, late
Houston at Boston, late
Oklahoma City at Atlanta, late
Indiana at Chicago, late
Minnesota at New Orleans, late
Orlando at Milwaukee, late
Phoenix at San Antonio, late
Memphis at Utah, late
Philadelphia at Sacramento, late

TUESDAY'S GAMES

Miami at Detroit, 7p.m.
L.A. Lakers at New York, 7:30p.m.
Denver at Portland, 10p.m.
Dallas at L.A. Clippers, 10:30p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

Charlotte at Orlando, 7p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Indiana, 7p.m.
Phoenix at Cleveland, 7p.m.
Brooklyn at Boston, 7:30p.m.
Chicago at Houston, 8p.m.
Detroit at Milwaukee, 8p.m.
Miami at Philadelphia, 8p.m.
Indiana at Memphis, 8p.m.
Utah at Oklahoma City, 8p.m.
Washington at New Orleans, 8p.m.
Atlanta at San Antonio, 8:30p.m.
Philadelphia at Golden State, 10p.m.
Portland at Sacramento, 10p.m.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS

L.A. Clippers 97, Dallas 91
L.A. Lakers 121, Detroit 116
Phoenix 126, Denver 97
Chicago 109, New York 103
Golden State 119, Toronto 104

ODDS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL	TUESDAY
FAVORITE	LINE
at Fresno State	6½ (138)
S. Utah	1 (147)
at Rider	1 (141)
at Towson	3 (138)
Milwaukee	2 (147½)
at Mercer	7 (148)
at Buffalo	6 (152½)
at Marshall	6 (153)
at Texas Tech	28 (136½)
at St. Louis	11 (144)
at Nebraska	19 (146½)
CS Fullerton	8½ (144½)
at Portland	9½ (143)
N. Colorado	5½ (140)
at UC Davis	9½ (139½)

NBA	TUESDAY
FAVORITE	LINE
Miami	9 (205½)
at New York	off (off)
at Portland	off (off)
at LA Clippers	off (off)

NHL	TUESDAY
FAVORITE	LINE
at Tampa Bay	-162
at Dallas	-113
at Calgary	-212

COLLEGE FOOTBALL	TUESDAY
FAVORITE	LINE
at Ball State	5½ (58½)
W. Michigan	3½ (62½)
Fresno State	7½ (52½)
at Miss. St.	1 (61)
at Texas	3 (52)
Ohio	5½ (48)
at C. Michigan	8½ (64)
Boise State	2½ (44½)
Utah State	15½ (49½)
Iowa	1½ (41)
at UAB	13½ (50½)
at UCF	18½ (62)
Cincinnati	13½ (58)
at Arkansas	14½ (62½)
at Air Force	18 (49½)
Co. Carolina	14½ (56)
at Utah	23½ (52½)
at Iowa State	14½ (58½)
at NC State	5½ (63)
Washington St.	½ (43½)

NFL	TUESDAY
FAVORITE	LINE
Navy	12½ (43½)
Ohio State	8 (63½)
Maryland	1 (53)
at Florida	2½ (59)
at Baylor	14½ (52)
at Kent State	1 (65)
Georgia	35 (54½)
Houston	32½ (56)
at Liberty	3½ (54½)
Wake Forest	5 (63½)
at Toledo	28½ (57½)
Miami	21½ (68½)
Louisiana Tech	3½ (52½)
at Arkansas St.	2 (61½)
at Georgia St.	6½ (49½)
UTSA	10½ (59½)
at Old Dominion	9½ (56)
at Appalachian St.	24½ (55½)
at N. Mexico St.	6½ (59½)
at So. Miss.	10½ (46)
at Wyoming	10 (48)
at Illinois	6½ (43½)
at Michigan St.	1 (51½)
at Oregon	7 (61½)
at Purdue	15 (50½)
Alabama	19½ (55)
at Marshall	1 (75)
at Tennessee	31 (62½)
at Virginia	7½ (62½)
at Arizona St.	20 (52½)
Wisconsin	6½ (39)
at SMU	6½ (62)
Texas A&M	6½ (45½)
West Virginia	15½ (55½)
at Memphis	3½ (49½)
at FAU	6 (57½)
at Oklahoma St.	4 (50½)
at Louisville	2½ (57)
Clemson	11½ (43)
Pittsburgh	13 (58)
Notre Dame	19 (52½)
Nevada	4½ (55½)
at UCLA	7 (57½)
BYU	7 (63½)

NFL WEEK 12	THURSDAY
FAVORITE	LINE
Chicago	3½ (41½)
at Dallas	7 (51)
Buffalo	4½ (46½)

Tampa Bay	2½ (51)	at Indpls
at Houston	3 (44)	NY Jets
Philadelphia	3½ (46½)	at NY Giants
Carolina	1 (42½)	at Miami
at New England	5½ (44½)	Tennessee
at Cincinnati	3½ (45)	Pittsburgh
Atlanta	1 (46½)	at Jacksnvle
LA Chargers	2½ (47)	at Denver
at Green Bay	1 (48½)	LA Rams
at San Francisco	3 (48½)	Minnesota
at Baltimore	4 (46½)	Cleveland
MONDAY		

at Washington 1 (46)
For the latest odds, go to
FanDuel Sportsbook.
<https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/>

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE										
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
Florida	18	13	2	3	29	71	47			
Toronto	20	13	6	1	27	51	45			
Tampa Bay	17	10	4	3	23	55	52			
Detroit	20	8	9	3	19	54	67			
Boston	15	9	6	0	18	46	43			
Buffalo	17	7	8	2	16	49	54			
Montreal	20	5	13	2	12	44	70			
Ottawa	15	4	10	1	9	36	52			
METRO.	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			

Carolina	16	14	2	0	28	56	32			
Washington	19	11	3	5	27	64	44			
N.Y. Rangers	18	11	4	3	25	51	51			
Philadelphia	16	8	5	3	19	43	44			
New Jersey	16	8	5	3	19	48	49			
Columbus	15	9	6	0	18	50	47			
Pittsburgh	17	7	6	4	18	51	51			
N.Y. Islanders	15	5	8	2	12	31	47			

WESTERN CONFERENCE										
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
Minnesota	18	11	6	1	23	64	59			
Winnipeg	17	9	4	4	22	54	45			
St. Louis	17	9	6	2	20	56	47			
Nashville	17	9	7	1	19	47	48			
Colorado	14	8	5	1	17	54	44			
Dallas	16	7	7	2	16	43	51			
Chicago	18	6	10	2	14	40	58			
Arizona	19	4	13	2	10	34	69			
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			

Calgary	19	11	3	5	27	63	36			
Edmonton	17	13	4	0	26	68	50			
Anaheim	18	10	5	3	23	61	48			
Vegas	18	11	7	0	22	57	54			
Los Angeles	18	8	7	3	19	47	46			
San Jose	17	8	8	1	17	44	50			
Vancouver	19	6	11	2	14	46	62			
Seattle	18	5	12	1	11	52	68			

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

MONDAY'S RESULTS

Columbus at Buffalo, late
Anaheim at Nashville, late
Vegas at St. Louis, late
Ottawa at Colorado, late
Pittsburgh at Winnipeg, late
Carolina at San Jose, late

TUESDAY'S GAMES

Philadelphia at Tampa Bay, 7p.m.
Edmonton at Dallas, 8:30p.m.
Chicago at Calgary, 9p.m.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS

Tampa Bay 5, Minnesota 4 (SO)
N.Y. Rangers 5, Buffalo 4
Calgary 4, Boston 0
Toronto 3, N.Y. Islanders 0
Chicago 1, Vancouver 0
Seattle 5, Washington 2
Arizona 2, Los Angeles 1 (OT)

SOCCER

MLS PLAYOFFS

EAST FIRST ROUND

Tue: #3 Nashville vs. #6 Orlando, 8 p.m.

WEST FIRST ROUND

Tue: #2 Seattle vs. #7 Salt Lake, 10:30 p.m.

EAST CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS
Sunday: Nas/Orl vs. #7 Phila., 5:30 p.m.
Nov. 30: #1 NE vs. #4 NYFCB, 7:30 p.m.
WEST CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS
Thu: #1 Colo. vs. #4 Portland, 4:30 p.m.
Sunday: #3 SKC vs. Sea/Salt Lake, TBA

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE										
EAST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA				
New England	7	4	0	.636	300	177				
Buffalo	6	4	0	.600	295	176				
Miami	4	7	0	.364	201	269				
N.Y. Jets	2	8	0	.200	178	320				
SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA				

Tennessee	8	3	0	.727	291	254				
Indianapolis	6	5	0	.545	309	245				
Houston	2	8	0	.200	150	271				
Jacksonville	2	8	0	.200	159	262				
NORTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA				
Baltimore	7	3	0	.700	247	230				
Cincinnati	6	4	0	.600	268	216				
Pittsburgh	5	4	1	.550	214	226				
Cleveland	6	5	0	.545	244	251				
WEST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA				
Kansas City	7	4	0	.636	281	250				
L.A. Chargers	6	4	0	.600	260	265				
Denver	5	5	0	.500	200	183				
Las Vegas	5	5	0	.500	223	262				

NATIONAL CONFERENCE										
EAST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA				
Dallas	7	3	0	.700	293	214				
Philadelphia	5	6	0	.455	297	260				
Washington	4	6	0	.400	212	267				
N.Y. Giants	3	6	0	.333	179	216				
SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA				

Tampa Bay	6	3	0	.667	279	212				
New Orleans	5	5	0	.500	251	218				
Carolina	5	6	0	.455	226	220				
Atlanta	4	6	0	.404	178	288				
NORTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA				
Green Bay	8	3	0	.727	247	214				
Minnesota	5	5	0	.500	255	242				
Chicago	3	7	0	.300	163	240				
Detroit	0	9	1	.050	160	273				
WEST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA				
Arizona	9	2	0	.818	310	227				
L.A. Rams	7	3	0	.700	271	227				
San Francisco	5	5	0	.500	246	222				
Seattle	3	7	0	.300	194	209				

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Wednesday: vs. Auburn, Battle 4 Atlantis, 2:30 p.m., ESPN

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Dec. 3: at Seton Hall, 7 p.m., SNY

UConn

from Page 1

all but secured the No. 1 spot in the AP Top 25 women's college basketball rankings for another week when the delayed poll is released on Tuesday. UConn is now 22-4 in 1-vs.-2 games.

Sophomore Paige Bueckers led the Huskies with 19 points, all in the first three quarters. She and the rest of the team went 1-for-10 from the field in the final 10 minutes. Redshirt senior Evina Westbrook, who finished with 14 points, delivered UConn's only field goal in the final 12 ½ minutes of the game.

"The combination of their defensive pressure in the fourth quarter and our inability to handle that pressure is basically the game," Auriemma said. "We just ran out of gas. We just fell apart."

"To be honest, they punched us. We fell. We didn't punch back," said UConn senior Christyn Williams, who finished with 10 points. "We had a heck of a first half. Things were flowing offensively and defensively. It was just the fourth quarter really. They hit some big shots, and we couldn't get it going offensively."

After the game, South Carolina coach Dawn Staley went as far as to call her squad the "best and deepest" defensive team she's ever coached.

Aliyah Boston (22 points, 15 rebounds) and Zia Cooke (17 points) did the bulk of the damage for the Gamecocks. With Boston leading the way, the Gamecocks dominated the glass 42-25, had 19 offensive rebounds and scored 17 second-chance points. Per Her Hoop Stats, the Huskies' 37.3% rebounding rate was their lowest since at least 2009-10, as far back as the database goes.

The Gamecocks also successfully limited the Huskies to just 3-for-8 shooting from 3-point land. For a team that relies a lot on Bueckers (1-for-3 on 3s) and other guards to hit shots from the perimeter, that spelled trouble.

"They're a better team than us right now," Auriemma said.

Early on, it looked like the Huskies could run away with it. After falling behind 6-0, they rattled off a 20-2 run to go up by 12. With the team largely running in transition, Bueckers and Westbrook got going offensively, and Westbrook's four-point play at the 4:55 mark not only extended UConn's lead to five but sent Cooke to the bench with two fouls. Huskies senior Olivia Nelson-Ododa came up huge with some timely blocks, drawing a charge and making her presence known with her interior defense.

South Carolina answered by



South Carolina forward Victoria Saxton, right, and guard Destanni Henderson, left, fight for possession with UConn's Paige Bueckers during Monday's Battle 4 Atlantis championship game in the Bahamas. South Carolina took control in the fourth quarter to take home the championship. **TIM AYLEN/AP**

SOUTH CAROLINA 73, UCONN 57										
South Carolina	M	FG	FT	RB	A	PF	PT			
Boston	35	10-19	1-1	15	2	3	22			
Cooke	33	8-17	0-1	1	1	3	17			
Henderson	38	5-15	4-4	4	6	2	15			
Beal	23	3-6	0-0	4	1	4	6			
Saxton	22	1-3	0-0	3	2	1	2			
Littleton	15	2-4	0-0	2	0	1	6			
Cardoso	12	2-2	0-0	6	0	0	4			
Amihere	16	0-1	1-4	2	0	3	1			
Hall	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	0			
TOTALS	—	31-67	6-10	42	18	13	73			
Three-point goals: 5-18, 27.8 (Littleton 2-4, Boston 1-4, Cooke 1-4, Henderson 1-5, Beal 0-1). FG pct.: 46.3. FT pct.: 60.0. Team rebounds: 5. Turnovers: 14 (Henderson 5, Boston 2, Cardoso 2, Amihere 2, Cooke, Littleton, Hall). Blocks: 2 (Boston, Cardoso). Steals: 11 (Henderson 6, Cooke 2, Amihere 2, Littleton).										
UConn	M	FG	FT	RB	A	PF	PT			
Bueckers	39	8-19	2-2	5	7	1	19			
Westbrook	31	4-6	4-4	0	3	1	14			
Williams	39	3-10	4-4	2	3	1	10			
Nelson-Ododa	34	3-4	0-2	5	4	4	6			
Edwards	22	3-6	0-0	3	1	1	6			
Juhasz	20	1-4	0-0	3	0	3	2			
Fudd	10	0-1	0-0	0	0	1	0			
Muhl	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	0			
McLean	2	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0			
TOTALS	—	22-50	10-12	25	18	13	57			
Three-point goals: 3-8, 37.5 (Westbrook 2-2, Bueckers 1-3, Juhasz 0-1, Williams 0-2). FG pct.: 44.0. FT pct.: 83.3. Team rebounds: 6. Turnovers: 19 (Juhasz 5, Bueckers 4, Westbrook 3, Nelson-Ododa 3, Williams 2, Edwards, Team). Blocks: 7 (Nelson-Ododa 5, Edwards, Fudd). Steals: 5 (Williams 2, Nelson-Ododa 2, Juhasz).										
South Carolina	14	19	24	16	—	73				
UConn	20	16	18	3	—	57				
Officials: Spurlock, Vaszily, Kantner. Att: 1,171 at Atlantis Resort, Paradise Island, Bahamas.										

scoring the final six points of the quarter before UConn's 8-1 run at the beginning of the second put them back ahead by a game-high 13 points.

Thanks to their dominance on the offensive glass and UConn slowing down on offense, the Gamecocks ended the half on a 10-2 run to pull within three off Destanni Henderson's layup.

South Carolina stormed ahead to start the second half, taking advantage of some bad UConn turnovers on inbound plays to go up by six. Williams started looking to get to the rim, helping UConn pull within two. Sophomore Aaliyah Edwards,

who struggled in the first half, came through with a big defensive rebound and fast-break drive to the rim to briefly give UConn the edge again toward the end of the third, but it was South Carolina who entered the fourth ahead following a 3 from Destiny Littleton, the first of two clutch shots she made.

The Gamecocks scored six unanswered points to start the fourth.

They held UConn scoreless from the field from the 2:39 mark of the third until the 5:01 mark of the fourth, when Westbrook broke the drought with a 3. Littleton responded on the next play with a trey of her own, and Henderson hit two free throws with 4:03 to play to give the Gamecocks a double-figure lead the Huskies could not erase.

"For 30 minutes, I thought we were really, really, really good. And then the last 10 minutes, they were better," Auriemma said. "They were better than us defensively. They were better than us offensively. They were better than us rebounding the ball. For 30 minutes, we were better and then for 10, the 10 that mattered the most, they were."

Still, the overarching takeaway from the Bahamas was not one of panic. It's November, UConn's fourth game, and Auriemma said he'd be more worried if the loss happened in February. The measuring stick will be brought back out when these teams square off again in Columbia, South Carolina, on Jan. 27.

"We'd much rather have this 'L' in November than later in the season in March," Williams said. "We're just going to take it and learn from it, and that's really all that we can do."

AP TOP 25 MEN'S BASKETBALL POLL

UConn up to No. 22; Gonzaga remains No. 1

Associated Press

UConn climbed another spot to No. 22 in Associated Press Top 25 men's college basketball poll Monday after a 2-0 week. The Huskies (4-0) beat LIU 93-40 last Wednesday and Binghamton 87-63 on Saturday.

Gonzaga and UCLA continued their hold onto the top two positions, setting the stage for their highly anticipated showdown this week, while Purdue and Duke barged their way into the top five.

The Bulldogs (4-0) had an easy week with wins over Alcorn State and Bellarmine and received 55 first-place votes from the 61-person medial panel that regularly covers college basketball. The Bruins (4-0) received five first-place votes after blowing out Long Beach State and North Florida last week to head to Las Vegas with some momentum.

Gonzaga played Central Michigan and UCLA faced Bellarmine on Monday night in the Good Sam Empire Classic. Then, the nation's top two teams will square off Tuesday night in a Final Four rematch of a game won by the Bulldogs in overtime.

"It's important for everybody if you want to make the NCAA Tournament," Gonzaga coach Mark Few said. "If you want to accrue a high seed, you have to play really, really good teams. I think it's important for college basketball."

Purdue received the only other first-place vote and leapfrogged Kansas into third in the Top 25 following the Boilermakers' win over then-No. 5 Villanova in the Hall of Fame Tip-Off tournament. The Jayhawks were fourth and the Blue Devils were fifth.

Defending national champion Baylor jumped to sixth after running roughshod over Central Arkansas and Stanford, while the Wildcats dropped only to seventh

thanks to beating then-No. 12 Tennessee before losing to Purdue. Texas and Memphis were next, with Kentucky and Alabama in a tie for 10th in the second regular-season poll of the season.

The Wildcats and Crimson Tide were followed by Houston, Arkansas, Illinois and Tennessee at No. 15.

St. Bonaventure solidified its status as this season's early mid-major darling by jumping six spots to No. 16 following wins over Clemson and Marquette. Arizona made the biggest leap into the poll at No. 17 after beating Wichita State and romping past then-No. 4 Michigan in the Roman Main Event, followed by another newcomer to the poll in BYU.

"We've got good players," Arizona coach Tommy Lloyd said. "I know we've been out of the limelight; maybe a little bit of that's my fault because I haven't been looking for it. But you know what? We're here now. And we belong."

Auburn and Michigan rounded out the top 20 with Seton Hall, UConn, Florida, USC and Xavier completing the poll.

"This is where we are as a program," said Seton Hall coach Kevin Willard, whose Pirates beat the Wolverines last week for their first win over a top-five nonconference team on the road. "We can play with anybody in the country, and we have done that in the last seven years."

Conference call

SEC: 6 (Nos. 10, 10 tie, 13, 15, 19, 23)
Big East: 4 (Nos. 7, 21, 22, 25)
Big 10: 3 (Nos. 3, 14, 20)
Big 12: 3 (Nos. 4, 6, 8)
Pac-12: 3 (Nos. 2, 17, 24)
American: 2 (Nos. 9, 12)
West Coast: 2 (Nos. 1, 18)
ACC: 1 (No. 5)
Atlantic 10: 1 (No. 16)

UConn Women's Basketball

Wisconsin point guard 1st class of '23 to commit

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

Monday wasn't a total loss for the UConn women's basketball program. Shortly after the No. 2 Huskies fell to No. 1 South Carolina in the Battle 4 Atlantis championship game, point guard Kamorea "KK" Arnold announced she has verbally committed to UConn, making her the Huskies' first commit of the class of 2023.

Arnold, the No. 8 prospect in the country per ESPN, hails from Germantown, Wisconsin. In the fall of 2023, she figures to join a deep backcourt that's expected to include then-seniors Paige Bueckers and Nika Muhl and juniors Azzi Fudd and Caroline Ducharme.

"Athletic lead-guard armed with a scorer's mentality; explosive in transition game, slices through the defense, motors and distributes; explosive 1 on 1 creator with mid-range game delivery that extends to the arc," a scouting report from espnW said about Arnold.

Baylor, Duke, Florida, Kentucky, Louisville, Marquette, North Carolina, Notre Dame, Ohio State, South Carolina and Wisconsin were also listed in her top 12, but Arnold said there were two other schools aside from UConn she was seriously considering.

"What really tipped it toward UConn is the competitive style they have, competitive nature.

Especially when I went to go visit. The community was all around you. Even though I wasn't a player yet, they still came up and said hi," she said on W7 Productions following her announcement. "Then just overall, when I hung out with the players I felt super comfortable around them. And the coaching staff is really great, one of the greatest coaching staffs around. And of course, I want to be part of something great and something to build my game to the next level beyond college basketball."

Arnold said UConn was one of her dream schools when she was younger, and she grew up watching former Huskies point guard Moriah Jefferson in particular. A photo posted from her mother later in the day showed a younger Arnold sitting in her room with UConn stickers covering the walls.

Arnold, whom the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel lists as 5 foot 10, led her high school team to the WIAA Division 1 state title and also won gold with USA Basketball at the 2021 FIBA Americas U16 Championship this past summer. As a sophomore last season, she averaged 22.9 points, 6.3 rebounds, 5.1 assists and 3.8 steals per game and was named the MaxPreps, Associated Press and Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Basketball Player of the Year.

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Amore

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"We had to disrupt," South Carolina coach Dawn Staley said. "UConn's a well-oiled machine; if you allow them to run their stuff, they just make teams look stupid. You didn't see the impact in the first half. It isn't until the third and fourth quarters that you see what our defense does to teams."

It did something to the Huskies, outrebounded 42-25, it forced them to unravel — and it forces them back to the white board. They know where the bar is and know how much higher they will have to reach on Jan. 27, when they face the Gamecocks in South Carolina, and if they face them again in late March or early April.

"What we need to address as coaches is what happened that we can fix," Auriemma said, "and what about what just happened that we *can't* fix? Not all of those things that happened in the fourth quarter are fixable."

One thing that's not fixable, Aliyah Boston is not walking out that door. A much more dominating presence than she was when UConn defeated South Carolina last February, Boston played off her supporting cast perfectly at both ends. South Carolina focused on, and shut down, UConn's perimeter game

with no fear of the Huskies doing anything in the post. The Huskies were outscored 36-24 in the paint, 17-2 on second chances.

"Do I think [Boston] is the best player?" Staley said. "Twenty-two points and 15 rebounds in a big-ass game."

Mic drop. South Carolina is No. 1, until somebody proves it is not.

Auriemma joked that he couldn't send Jamelle Elliott, a UConn assistant coach and former defensive standout as a player, out there.

"Can we counteract that?" Auriemma said. "You can. Our post players would have to make some shots at the perimeter. In terms of defending her, I thought we defended her pretty good in the first half, but you have to have a pretty good game plan to beat South Carolina. We had a really good game plan, and we executed it great. And then we got worn down."

The Huskies' less-than-Bahama-breezy win over South Florida in the semifinal round signaled this might be coming. None of this, however stunning, shocking or unusual — the Huskies' earliest loss in a season since an OT loss to Stanford in 2014, the first time scoring 60 points or fewer in back-to-back games since 2012 — signals the end of civilization as we know it, something Auriemma usually feels compelled to remind us after losses.

The next four months, if one were to predict, will bring the evolution he envisions. Azzi Fudd will shoot with more confidence, and ways will be found to get her open; Bueckers will figure out how to work best with the players around her; the rebounding will improve, so will the toughness.

These evolutions take place every year, but we don't often know it because of the shroud of blow-outs against the overmatched.

Not this year. UConn's first four games, against Arkansas, Minnesota, South Florida and South Carolina, exposed the work that must be done.

"They were a better team than us tonight," Auriemma said. "... The next four months, the team you saw today, could be a completely different team. That's always every coach's hope and prayer, that our team can keep changing every week and use every experience to build on. We're going to have to work really, really hard for that to happen. It's not going to come easy for this team. That's why you play these games in November. I don't think Dawn left here feeling like they just won a national championship, and we're not leaving here feeling like we have no chance to win it"

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Safety Tip of the Day

Remember - wet leaves can easily be as slippery as ice, and if they're in a shaded area and temperatures have dropped low enough, they might actually be icy.

NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

A-Rod among new Hall candidates



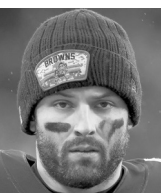
David Ortiz, Ryan Howard, Tim Lincecum and Alex Rodriguez are among 13 first-time candidates on the Hall of Fame ballot of the Baseball Writers' Association of America, joining 17 holdovers. Steroids-tainted stars Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens make their 10th and final appearance on the BBWAA ballot along with Curt Schilling, who fell 16 votes shy of the necessary 75% in last year's balloting. Schilling appeared on 71.1% of ballots, Bonds 61.8% and Clemens 61.6%. Justin Morneau, Jimmy Rollins and Jake Peavy also are new to the ballot along with Carl Crawford, Prince Fielder, Joe Nathan, Jonathan Papelbon, A.J. Pierzynski and Mark Teixeira, the Hall and BBWAA said Monday. Holdovers include Bobby Abreu, Mark Buehrle, Todd Helton, Tim Hudson, Torii Hunter, Andruw Jones, Jeff Kent, Andy Pettitte, Manny Ramirez, Gary Sheffield, Sammy Sosa, Omar Vizquel and Billy Wagner. Sosa also will be on the ballot for the final time. Rodriguez was suspended for the 2014 season for violating MLB's drug policy and collective bargaining agreement.

First for LeBron: 1-game suspension



LeBron James of the Lakers was suspended for one game and the Pistons' Isaiah Stewart was suspended two games for their roles in an ugly incident during Sunday's Lakers-Pistons game. The NBA announced the suspensions Monday. It's the first suspension in the 19-year career of James. The Lakers and Pistons meet again Sunday in Los Angeles. The incident happened in the third quarter as James and Stewart were jostling for position during a free throw. Their arms appeared to get intertwined and James swung his elbow, making contact with Stewart, who quickly had blood streaming from above his eye. Cooler heads seemed to prevail, for a moment. Stewart was guided away from the spot where the contact occurred by teammates and coaches, though he appeared to become more incensed along the way. He then tried to double back and run toward where James was. A number of people again blocked his path. Stewart was assessed two technical fouls, James was assessed a Flagrant Foul Penalty 2, and both players were ejected from the game.

Mayfield puts blame on self, not boos



Every bad throw, every body ache and every chance Baker Mayfield missed to put away the Lions pained him. The boos directed at the Browns quarterback — from some hard-to-please fans at home — didn't help. So when the final seconds ticked off in a 13-10 win that felt more like a loss, Mayfield didn't feel like celebrating. "I feel like I let my teammates down," he said. With a day to process what went wrong and get a grip on his emotions, Mayfield said frustration with his own performance — not any booing or a litany of injuries — caused him to head straight to the locker room following the game and not speak to the media. Mayfield threw two interceptions against the Lions in a sloppy, penalty-filled affair for the Browns (6-5). After the Browns ran out the clock to escape the upset, Mayfield took off his helmet and didn't acknowledge teammates, coaches or anyone from the Lions as he gloomily walked off the field. He declined postgame interviews, which are required by the NFL unless a player is getting medical treatment. "I was frustrated, among other things," Mayfield said Monday. —AP



Longtime Braves star Freddie Freeman finally won a World Series this year but may end up wearing a new uniform next season. GETTY FILE

BASEBALL

Market looks fully stocked

Despite possible lockout, good free agent options available

By Noah Trister
Associated Press

With a potential lockout on the horizon, it's been mostly business as usual on the free agent market — so far. The Tigers signed left-hander Eduardo Rodriguez. The Astros retained righty Justin Verlander. Noah Syndergaard went from the Mets to the Angels on a one-year deal. The deadline to accept qualifying offers came and went last week, further clarifying who was heading to the open market. It remains to be seen whether the uncertainty about the next labor agreement will affect offseason moves for the top players available, but it's clear there are plenty of good options for teams looking to upgrade. Here's a look at baseball's top free agents by position. Players' current ages are in parentheses:

Left-handed starter

Carlos Rodón (28), White Sox: It's a toss-up between Rodón and the Blue Jays' Robbie Ray. Rodon didn't really threaten Ray in the AL Cy Young vote, but his ERA was about a half a run lower and he's also younger. And Ray received a qualifying offer while Rodon did not, so that may make Rodon a more enticing target.
Next best: Clayton Kershaw (33), Dodgers

Left-handed reliever

Andrew Chaffin (31), A's: Chafin was impressive last season for both the Cubs and A's.
Next best: Tony Watson (36), Giants

Right-handed starter

Max Scherzer (37), Dodgers: No signs yet of any major decline for Scherzer despite his age. The three-time Cy Young winner had an ERA at 3.15 or lower in eight of the last nine seasons — the only time it was higher was in the shortened 2020 campaign.
Next best: Kevin Gausman (30), Giants

Right-handed reliever

Raisel Iglesias (31), Angels: Iglesias saved 34 games for the Angels, and things didn't go smoothly for the the Reds bullpen after he left. He's had at least 30 saves in each of the last three non-shortened seasons.
Next best: Kenley Jansen (34), Dodgers

Catcher

Yan Gomes (34), A's: There aren't any star catchers available this year, but Gomes can provide a bit of pop.
Next best: Roberto Pérez (32), Indians

First base

Freddie Freeman (32), Braves: Losing Freeman would be a major downer for the World Series champions, but the five-time All-Star and 2020 MVP will obviously command a big price. Even at first it's hard to find this kind of consistent production.
Next best: Anthony Rizzo (32), Yankees

Second base

Marcus Semien (31), Blue Jays: Let's list Semien as a second baseman — where he mostly played this season — and avoid a tough decision at shortstop. Semien hit 45 home runs this year while playing all 162 games, and he finished third in the MVP

vote. He has the most WAR of any player in baseball since the start of the 2019 season.
Next best: César Hernández (31), White Sox

Third base

Eduardo Escobar (32), Brewers: Escobar hit 28 home runs this year in the first full season since he slugged 35 in 2019. He played a bit at first, second and shortstop in addition to third.
Next best: Kyle Seager (34), Mariners

Shortstop

Carlos Correa (27), Astros: Correa made his big league debut at age 20 and reaches free agency well shy of his 30th birthday. That makes him a good bit younger than some of the other top players on this list, and he may be the most sought-after name this offseason.
Next best: Corey Seager (27), Dodgers

Outfield

Starling Marte (33), A's; Kris Bryant (29), Giants; Nick Castellanos (29), Reds: Marte did what he could to help the A's down the stretch, and he ended up with an .841 OPS this year for the A's and Marlins. Bryant doesn't turn 30 until January and can obviously play third in addition to the outfield. Castellanos set career highs in homers (34), average (.309) and OPS (.939) this year.
Next best: Avisail García (30), Brewers

Designated hitter

Nelson Cruz (41), Rays: Cruz may finally be slowing down, but only a little. He hit 32 homers this year but posted an .832 OPS, his lowest since 2012.
Next best: Kyle Schwarber (28), Red Sox

NFL ANALYSIS

Chiefs, Pats back where they belong

By Rob Maaddi
Associated Press

Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs are back in a familiar spot. Same for Bill Belichick and the Patriots. The Chiefs and Patriots have surged to first place in their respective divisions with monthlong winning streaks. The Colts, 49ers and Eagles have also turned things around in November. In the NFL's longest season, counting teams out before Halloween was premature. The Chiefs beat the Cowboys 19-9 on Sunday for their fourth straight victory since a 27-3 loss to the Titans on Oct. 24. They now lead the jumbled AFC West by a half-game over the Chargers (6-4) and should be favorites to win their sixth straight division title. Mahomes had a career-low passer rating against the Titans and some people were questioning if the 26-year-old had already played his best football in his first four seasons when he won an NFL MVP award and a Super Bowl MVP trophy in consecutive years. Since then, Mahomes has seven TD passes and only two interceptions during the Chiefs' four-game winning streak that has been fueled by a suddenly stingy defense that has allowed just 11.8 points per game in that span. The unit allowed just three field goals to Dak Prescott and the league's top-ranked offense. "Since the second half of the Tennessee game, those guys have been playing better," Mahomes said of the defense. "It got lost because the offense wasn't playing very well. We were winning games because of our defense and people were so used to our offense going out and putting up these numbers. But every weekend I was right here at the podium saying don't lose track of how good our defense is playing. To go up against an offense like the (Cowboys) that has put up so many yards and scores, and shut it down, that's impressive." If the Chiefs' improved defense continues to play well, Mahomes and Co., could be playing in the Super Bowl for the third year in a row. One of the top teams standing in their way will be the Patriots, a scenario nobody could've envisioned when the team opened the season 2-4. Back then, it seemed the Patriots' wild, spending frenzy in free agency was wasted money. But the Patriots kicked off Week 11 with a 25-0 road win against the Falcons on Thursday night. The Pats (7-4) have won five in a row behind a strong defense and solid play from rookie quarterback Mac Jones. After a rare losing season, they're back leading the AFC East. The Colts started 0-3 with new QB Carson Wentz coming over from the Eagles after a dismal season that looked like it would carry over to his new home. But Wentz has been steady — 18 TDs, three picks — and the Colts have won six of their last eight. Jonathan Taylor was spectacular in a 41-15 road win against the Bills on Sunday, scoring five TDs. At 6-5, the Colts are in the playoff race. The 49ers were 2-4 after losing four in a row and many were wondering when coach Kyle Shanahan would bench Jimmy Garoppolo for rookie Trey Lance. But Shanahan stuck with Garoppolo after the worst game of his career in a 30-18 loss to the Colts and the veteran has responded with a string of strong performances. Garoppolo has posted a passer rating over 100 in four straight games, leading the 49ers to three wins. The 49ers are one of three teams tied at 5-5 vying for wild-card spots. A month ago, half of Philadelphia wanted rookie coach Nick Sirianni fired for using a flower analogy to motivate his 2-5 team. Riding the legs of Jalen Hurts and a commitment to the run, the Eagles (5-6) have won three of four. With a favorable schedule left, the Eagles have a real shot to make a playoff push. For some teams, it takes more time to bloom.

